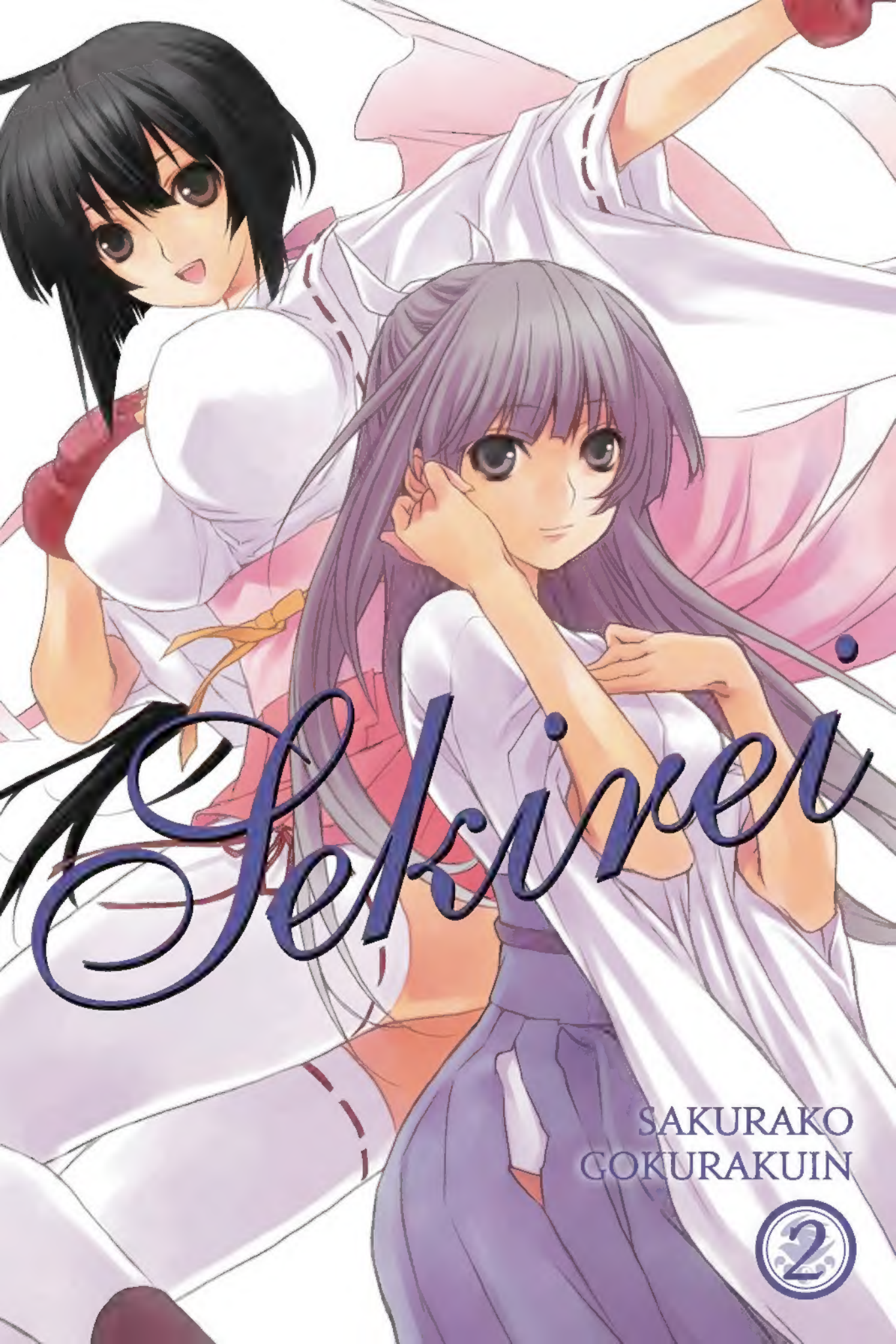
Selkirei
SAKURAKO
GOKURAKUIN
2

Sekirei 2
SAKURAKO GOKURAKUIN

SEKIREI ②

Gokurakuin Sakurako

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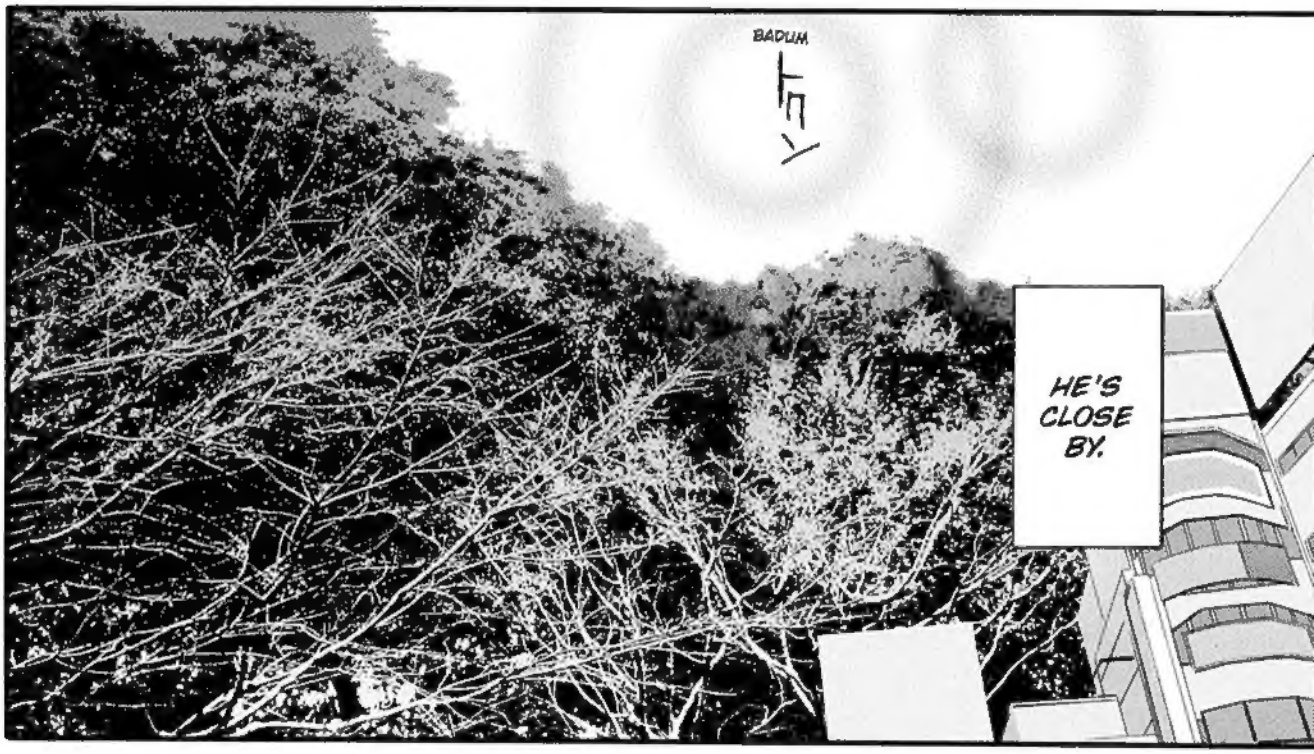
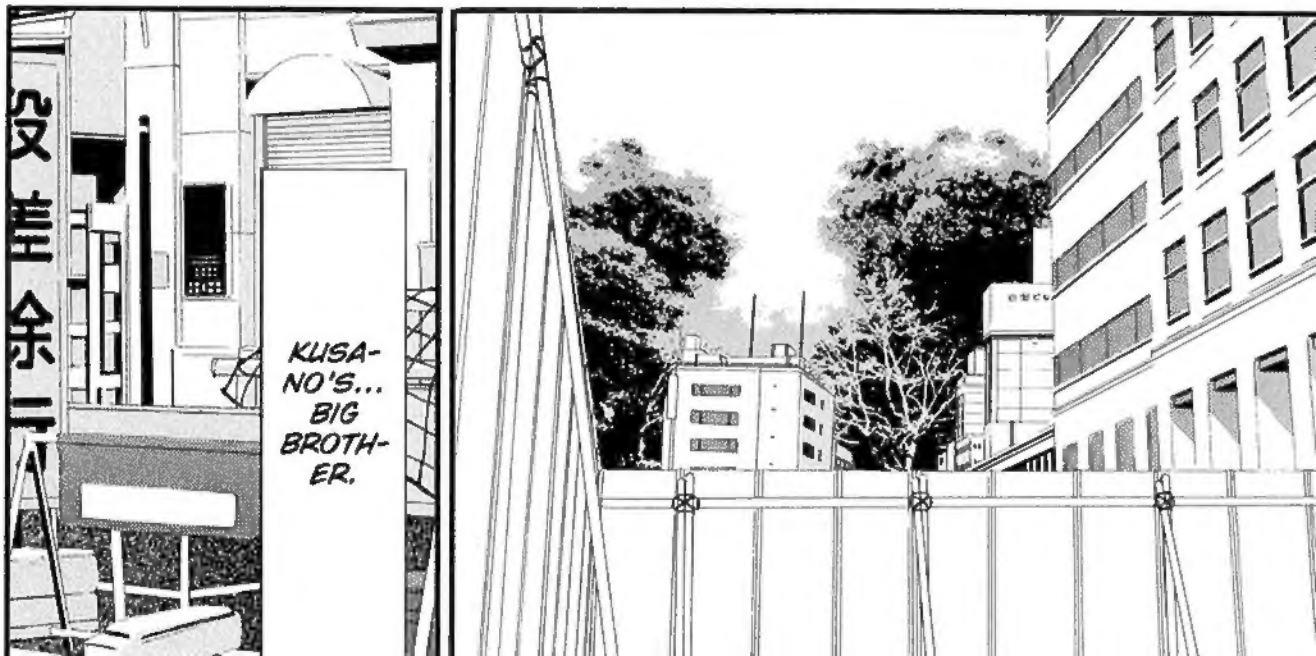
Chapter 6: The Second Man

MY HEART IS RACING.
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM


BADUM
HE'S CLOSE BY.


KUSA-NO'S... BIG BROTH-ER.

SAHASHI-KUN...
...TAKE YOUR LUNCH BREAK.
AH. SURE.
WOW!
STARE
MOVED
YOU'RE SO AMAZING, LANDLADY.
I GRATE-FULLY ACCEPT THIS BOUNTY.

HEYA.
THAT BENTO BOX LOOKS GREAT.
...HUH?
THE GUY WHO SHOWED UP LATE.
SOME-THING SCARY ABOUT HIM...
AH... I'M... SAHASHI.
MY NAME'S SEO.
NICE TO MEETCHA.
W-WANT A BITE?
OF ONIGIRI ...?
OH MAN, THANKS.
BUT NOW I LOOK LIKE A MOOCHER.
STARE

A ROUNIN STUDENT, HUH?
HA-HA... YUP. ALREADY MY SECOND YEAR AS ONE.
KIND OF A SORE SPOT FOR A ROUNIN LIKE ME...
RIGHT, HA-HA-HA.
OOH. THAT FRIED CHICKEN LOOKS TASTY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SEO-SAN...?
CHUCKLE
ME? A COLLEGE STUDENT?
YEAH, I'M IN MY SIXTH YEAR.
WHICH IS TO SAY I NEVER GO AT ALL.

...HAVE A PIECE.
THANKS.

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
CAN I GET ABOUT THIS MUCH EGG TOO?

SLAM
SEO, YOU—!

THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO STOP! IT'S FREAKING PATHETIC!!
YOU BEGGING FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S SCRAPS AGAIN...!?
DON'T "OH?" ME.
OH? HIKARI-CHAN?

...AH!

...HMM?

I'M TRULY SORRY. OUR SEO IS, WELL...
BOW BOW
N-NO, IT'S FINE, REALLY.

SMALL WORLD.
CRACKLE
NOW...
WE HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH SEKIRE WHO'VE SPROUTED WINGS.
DON'T WORRY
WE WON'T DO ANYTHING TO HER NOW.
YOUR CONCERN FOR ME IS UNWANTED!
NOW, GET AWAY FROM MINATO-SAN!!
...BE A GOOD GI AND F US.
AHHH!
THAT IMPUDENT MINISKIRTED MAIDEN SEKIREI! YOU'RE HER MASTER!!
YOU WERE AFTER MUSUBI-CHAN...
TH-THE LIGHTNING SEKIREI PAIR...!!
AH...
UH-OH.

.....
AH.
!
DROP

GLOOM
NO...AH, SORRY.
WAIT, NOW I'M IN THE WRONG !?
AHH, HIKARI!!!!
...
...YOU MADE THIS POOR, HONEST KID CRY.
MY BENTO ...
HANDMADE BY THE LANDLADY ...
MY BENTO ...
UM...
YAP
YAP
きゃあきゃあ
WE JUST BOUGHT SOME BREAD.
YOU WANT SOME?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STARTED SHAKING HIM DOWN IN THE FIRST PLACE.
GET OFFA ME.
... MASTER ...?
SORRY ABOUT MY MASTER AND COMPANION.
THEY DON'T MEAN ANY HARM.
!
TEITO'S A SMALL PLACE, HUH?
CAN'T BELIEVE I RAN INTO ANOTHER ASHIKABI.

I'M ASHIKABI TO THESE TWO.
THE NAME'S KAORU SEO.
IDIOT !!
HOLD ON... WHERE'RE YOU GRABBING ?
YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF.
GYAHH
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
ANOTHER ...
...SEKIREI MASTER, BESIDES ME...
FSSHH
UM...?
AH...
SEO

FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM

LOOK RIGHT OVER THERE.
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW? IT'S CLOSE BY.

THEY COME DOWN LIKE CRANE FLIES EVERY DAY.
HMPH.
MBI'S CHOPPERS AGAIN.

THAT ...?
...THEN YOU MUST BE AIMING FOR THAT TOO.
IF YOU'RE REALLY AN ASHIKABI ...

THE SEKIREI THEY CALL THE "GIRL OF GREEN."
RUMOR SAYS IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THERE.

GIRL OF GREEN .....?
KU... ... CHAN?
SO WHERE'D YOU HEAR THIS RUMOR ANYWAY...?
IT'S A SECRET. ♡
HEYYY, YOU TWO PART-TIMERS ...
...WE'RE DONE FOR TODAY. GO HOME.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S ALL THAT.
ALL THIS SUDDEN, UNUSUAL TREE GROWTH IN THE BOTANICAL GARDEN.
MBI'S COME TO DO SOME DEFORESTA-TION.
TEITO'S PUT OUT AN EVACUATION ORDER FOR A 500M RADIUS AROUND THE PARK.
NOT SURE WHAT IT ALL MEANS.

KU-CHAN...? BUT THAT WAS A DREAM.....
NO. IT WAS WAY TOO REAL FOR A MERE ILLUSION.

HMM...

BUZZ
BUZZ
OH?

SMIRK

A TEXT?
WHO FROM?

WANNA COME CHECK IT OUT? THAT "GIRL OF GREEN"?

...HEY.
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS ABOUT TO GET INTEREST-ING.

RING
RING
Yes ?
THE UNUSUAL PROLIFERATION OF PLANT LIFE IN THE TEITO BOTANICAL GARDEN...
...WILL BE CURTAILED BY THE CITY OF TEITO AND MBI TODAY.
WHAT'S MINAKA PLANNING ?
IT'S ME. I'M WATCHING IT ON TV RIGHT NOW.
WHAT IS THIS?
I need you to handle what happens next.
... WHAT? COME ON.
AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT, TAKAMI-SAN?
.....
.....
... Sorry.
I couldn't stop that idiot.

THE ASHIKABI'LL START GATHERING.
That park is about to become a lawless battlefield.
...Kagari? Hellooooo ?
I GUARDED THAT PLACE EVERY DAY...
ALL MY EFFORTS TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY...FOR WHAT...?
SLUMP
"It's first come, first served!! You could be the one to give her wings!!"
"There's a really cute Sekirei deep in there.
Minaka leaked the info to them.
MBI's activity is just a cautionary measure.
Whatever happens in there, at least the nearby residents will have evacuated.
Yeah, yeah. Whatever it takes.
Just do it, please.
THANKS TO THAT, IT LOOKS LIKE I WON'T EVEN BE NUMBER ONE THIS MONTH.
YOU OWE ME A DATE AFTER THIS.
AND TOSS IN TWO OR THREE BOTTLES OF DOM PÉRIGNON.

Protect that child.

AND GIVE MINAKA A MESSAGE.
THE FLAMES THAT BURNED IZANAMI WILL CHAR HIM TO CINDERS.
...no way he'd understand a literary reference like that.
I'll tell him, but...
...UNDERSTOOD.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
FLIK
TELL IT STRAIGHT, THEN.
I'M GOING TO KILL HIM.
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL!!

SIGH...
AH. THE RICE COOKER'S CLEANED OUT.
OH, IT WAS NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
SQUIRM
もじ
もじ
SQUIRM
FIDGET
もぞ
もぞ
FIDGET

N-NO, THAT'S NOT IT! I JUST CAN'T BEAR WAITING!
EH.
THE WASHROOM? IT'S AT THE END OF THE HALL, ON THE LEFT.

I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE.
MY HEART IS ALL AFLUTTER...
...EVER SINCE MINATO-SAN LEFT FOR THE DAY.

AH! ON HIS CELLULAR TELEPHONE !!
IF YOU'RE WORRIED, WHY NOT CALL HIM?
I EVEN REMEMBER THE NUMBER!
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING

I KNOW! I CAN BRING IT TO HIM!!
OFF YOU GO, THEN.
MINATO-SAN... HE FORGOT TO TAKE IT WITH HIM...
BE CARE-FUL OUT THERE.
YES!
OW...
OUCH...
SLAM
ドン!
UWAHH!
KYAHH!

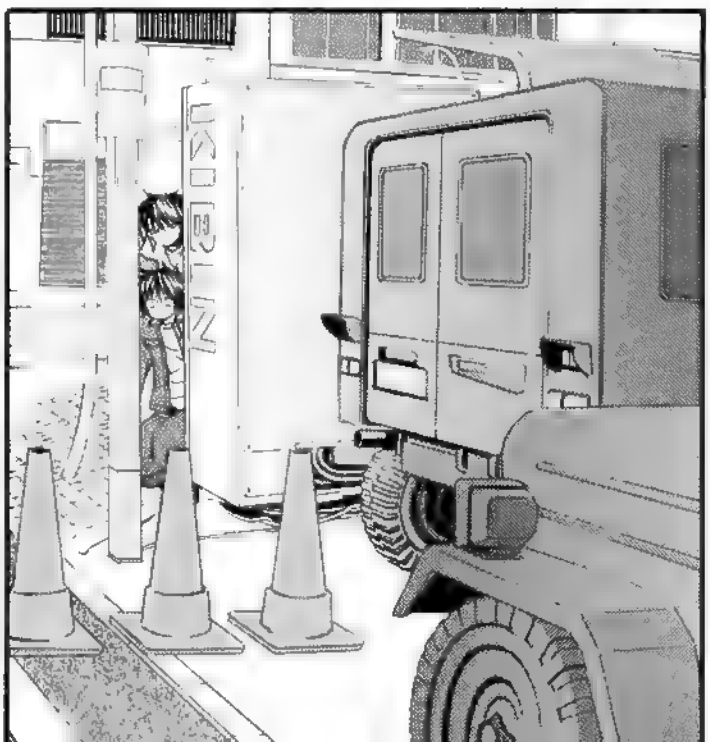
SQUIRM
もぞ!,,
...ARE YOU OKAY?
YESSSS.
MY, MY.
JUST AFTER I SAID TO BE CAREFUL.
I'M SORRY. I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION ...
YOU AREN'T HURT, ARE YOU?
QUITE THE POSITION YOU FELL DOWN IN.
NO!
THRUST
ずぃっ
...WHAT IS IT?
STARE
じっ

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOUR FACE LOOKS FLUSHED.
THANKS.
BUT I'M JUST A LITTLE TIRED.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A FEVER, BUT...
MUSUBI-SAN.
HOLD ON, HOLD ON.
COME HERE.
YES?
OKAY, THEN.
I'M OFF!

JUST A WORD OF ADVICE. MAY I? ♡
AS IF YOU HAD THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF THE COUNTLESS GODS.
THAT POWER YOU PUT IN YOUR SHOULDERS IS PROOF OF YOUR WEAK DEFENSES.
TRY A MORE RELAXED AND NATURAL STANCE.
LET YOUR BODY FLOW. THAT'S WHERE YOUR POWER COMES FROM.
OKAY!
THANK YOU!
IF ALL THE SEKIREI WERE LIKE HER...
...MY JOB WOULD BE A WHOLE LOT EASIER .....

PLUCK !!!
NOTH-ING...
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
?
THERE'S NO SAYING NO TO YOU.
YOU HAVE A BAD HABIT OF SMOKING WHEN YOU'RE UPSET.
YOU REALLY OUGHT TO STOP.
ANYWAY, I'M HEADING OUT TOO.
BUZZ

SIGN: SHINTOU TEITO BOTANICAL GARDEN



FLAP
I MEAN WE'RE GONNA BUST OUR WAY THROUGH.
RIGHT, HIKARI, HIBIKI?

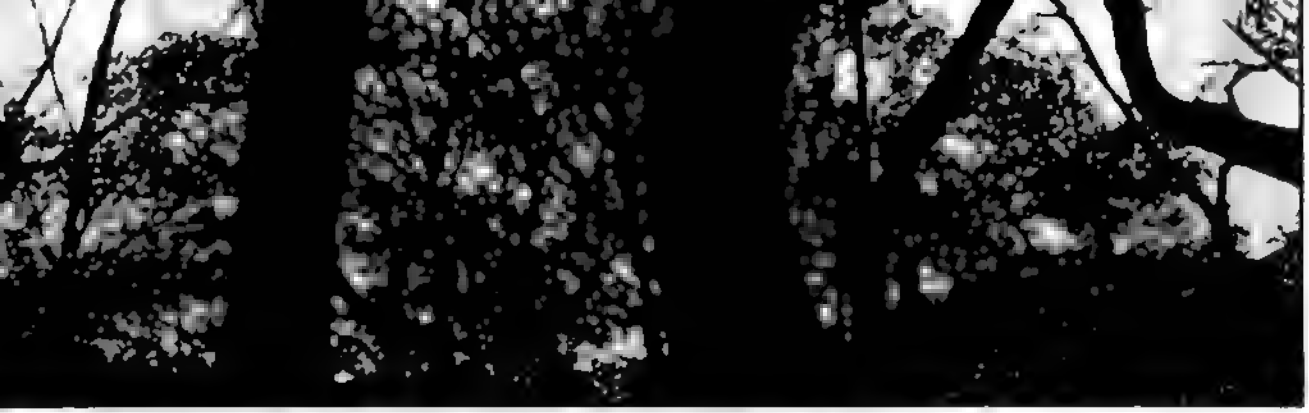
KEEEEE
...MOM, TEITO IS A SCARY PLACE.
AND... IT SEEMS LIKE...
...I MADE A REALLY BAD FRIEND FOR MYSELF...

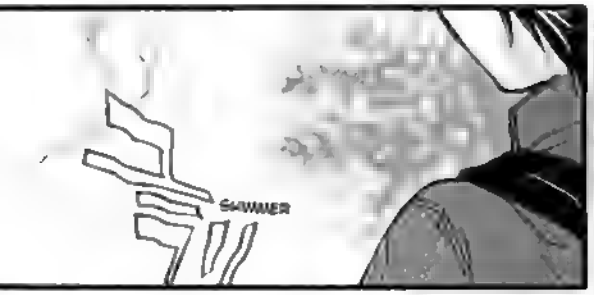
Chapter 7: A Calling Voice

M.P.I
55
YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE EVAC-UATION ORDER?
SO WOULD YOU MIND STEPPING ASIDE?
THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET DANGER-OUS.

BOOM
UGH.
UWAHHH.
RUN!
M.B.I.S
BOOM
BAM
RUMBLE

...A TOTALLY NIGHT-MARISH SCENE I SAW.
(MINATO SAHASHI, AGE NINETEEN, RONIN STUDENT)
THAT WAS...
...LET'S MOVE, KID.
HEY...
YEAH, SURE.
SHAKE
SHAKE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
...Y—




SHIMMER

!

GREAT THAT WE GOT IN, BUT WHERE THE HELL DO WE GO NOW?

KU-CHAN...?
IN THERE ...?
...THAT WAY?
YOU MEAN YOU'RE DEEP IN THAT FOREST...?
KU-CHAN!!
SMILE
FADE
7///...

WHAT'S UP, KID?
YOU GOT A THING FOR ME?
!
FWUMP
ぼいろ
KU—
EH...
THE LITTLE WHITE DRESS, YEAH?
S-S-SORRY ABOUT THAT.
?
SEEMS LIKE THOSE TWO COULDN'T SEE HER.
A PHANTOM? A WRAITH? PROBABLY NOT A GHOST ANYWAY.
JUST NOW...
YOU SAW HER TOO...?
SHE'S THE ONE IN HERE, ISN'T SHE?

THAT GIRL.
SHE WAS ALL ALONE, CRYING.
...I HAVE TO GO FIND HER.
I... DON'T KNOW.
BUT...
THAT'S WHY I...
I HAVE TO GO TO HER.
I CAME IN HERE JUST TO CHECK OUT WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT THINGS'VE CHANGED.
I'LL HELP YOU OUT.
...AND THE GIRL OF GREEN.
YOU...
I THINK I'M STARTING TO LIKE YOU.
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
...
HMPH.
I LIKE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE, ROUNIN.
YOU'RE LOOKING LIKE A MAN NOW.

MAP
UMM.
NOW WHERE'S MINATO-SAN'S PART-TIME JOB...?
AH!
UM.
AH. THE NEW GUY WHO STARTED TODAY?
I THINK HE AND SEO HEADED FOR THE BOTANICAL GARDEN.
?
BOTANICAL GARDEN ...?
WITH SEO-SAN...?

WHAT WAS THAT?
CAME FROM THE BOTANICAL GARDEN.
GUESS MBI'S STARTED THEIR DEFOR-ESTATION ALREADY ?
BOOM
!
?
H-HUH?
FWIP
YOU'D BETTER EVACUATE TOO, MISS...
TMP

MY HEART IS RACING...
MINATO-SAN...!
...VERY MUCH!
THANK YOU ...
I FORGOT TO THANK THAT NICE MAN FOR HELPING ME!!
...AH!

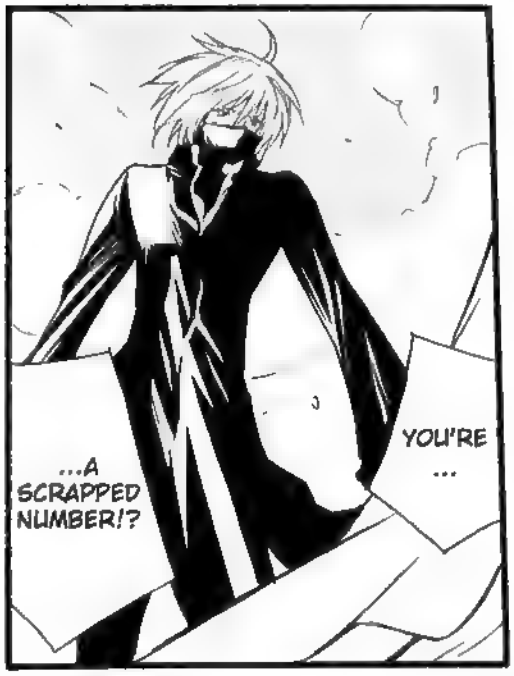
PURPOSELY ENTERING THROUGH THIS HEAVILY-GUARDED FRONT GATE IS...
BUT WHO DID IT, AND WHY?
QUITE THE SPECTACLE HERE.
THE CULPRIT ...
... YOU'VE COME.
YOO-HOO, HOMURA-SAN.
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN FOREVER.
... NUMBER 43, YOMI.

THE CULPRIT? HO-HO-HO.
I DON'T VERY MUCH LIKE THE WAY THAT SOUNDS.

...THE GIRL OF GREEN. FIRST ONE TO HER WINS.
WE'VE COME IN PLACE OF OUR ASHIKABI TO COLLECT...
...AKITSU SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH OF A CHALLENGE.
HOW DIS-AGREEABLE. FOR A LITTLE, LOST SEKIREI AND HER SUPPOSED GUARDIAN...
I WON'T HAND OVER NUMBER 108 TO THAT "FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED" BASTARD.
IF YOU WISH TO ENTER, I WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT.
FROSTY

LEAP
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
!
ICE!?
HO-HO-HO-HO-HO.
I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON THE LIKES OF YOU.
SO SORRY. PLAY NICE, NOW.
WAIT!!
WOBBLE
YOUR... OPPONENT ...
...IS ME.
THAT IS MY MASTER'S WISH...
HIS ABSO-LUTE... ORDER...

A CRIMSON SEKIREI CREST ON THE FORE-HEAD.
AND ICE...


...A SCRAPPED NUMBER!?
YOU'RE ...

SHOULD I FAIL TO HONOR IT...
...I'LL BE... DISCARDED ONCE MORE ...

AHHH, IT'S KAGARI-SAN.
!?
BOLT
BOUNCE
TURN
OH...
I'M SORRY. I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE.
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HIM FROM BEHIND...
BUT KAGARI-SAN DOESN'T WEAR A MASK.
DO YOU HAVE A COLD? TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
UM, BY THE WAY... ...IS THIS THE BOTANICAL GARDEN?
Y-YEAH.
THANK YOU!

TMP
TMP
たたっ
AREN'T YOU WONDERING WHAT CAUSED ALL THIS ..?
UM... HOLD ON, YOU...

I DO NOT!!
DO YOU... HAVE A COLD...?

FLIK
...BECAUSE I TOO WISH TO PASS THROUGH THIS GATE.
...IT WILL BE AFTER OUR FIGHT IS CONCLUDED ...
BUT IF I AM TO CATCH A COLD...
THIS ISN'T FOR A POLLEN ALLERGY EITHER.

WELL...
...JUST THAT THEY'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH MBI...
YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS SAHASHI, YEAH?
SO HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SEKIREI?
ABOUT SEKIREI ...
'COS IF YOU'RE AN ASHIKABI, YOU'VE ALREADY DONE IT.
THE WAY TO GIVE THEM WINGS?
YOU ALSO KNOW HOW TO MAKE 'EM YOUR OWN.
YEAH ...
THAT'S RIGHT. BY SWAP-PING SPIT.
BLUSH
かあっ
NORMALLY, THE SEKIREI REACT TO THE GENES OF A SUITABLE ASHIKABI AND SEEK 'EM OUT.
WITH THAT SYSTEM, IT MEANS AN ASHIKABI CAN CAUSE A REACTION IN MOST SEKIREI WHO DON'T HAVE WINGS YET.
GIVE THEM... WINGS?

DOES THAT INCLUDE YOU?
YOU A MORON ?
THE REAL PROBLEM IS WHEN SOMEONE GIVES 'EM WINGS AGAINST THEIR WILL.
SOME BASTARDS OUT THERE DO THAT AND GATHER UP A WHOLE MESS OF SEKIREI FOR THEMSELVES.
DO THOSE TWO LOOK LIKE THEY'D LET ME HAVE MY WAY WITH 'EM?
THEY'RE MY ONLY SEKIREI.
?
S- SORRY.
IF YOU'RE THE GUY MEANT TO BE HER ASHIKABI...
IF THAT GIRL OF GREEN'S REALLY CALLING YOU...
...THEN YOU GOTTA LET THOSE OTHER ASSHOLE ASHIKABI KNOW.
THERE AIN'T NO "FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED" WHEN IT COMES TO DESTINY.

Chapter 8:
A Chance Meeting

KUSANO ...
...DON'T GO TOO FAR, NOW.
WOW...!
THE SMELL OF THE WIND.
AND WHITE CLOUDS.
THE SKY... IT'S BLUE.

MEOW, MEOW!
COME, COME.
MEOW.
MEOW.
MEOW.
TIME'S UP.
YOUR WALK'S OVER NOW.
TIME TO GET BACK TO THE LAB, KUSANO.
LEAP
ぴょんっ

TMP
TMP
AH...
...UM, TAKAMI-CHAN.
YES?
KU DOESN'T LIKE THE LAB-O-TORY.
...OR SHOTS OR MEDICINE.
I DON'T WANNA GO BACK.
ONCE YOUR ADJUSTMENTS ARE OVER AND DONE WITH, YOU'LL BE FREE TO GO OUTSIDE.
AND THEN YOU'LL HEAD OFF TO FIND YOUR VERY OWN ASHIKABI.
ASHI-KABI?
A BIG BROTHER FOR KU?
YES.
SOMEONE WHO WILL LOVE AND CARE FOR YOU, KUSANO.
YES.
FOR REAL...
YEAH.
REALLY FOR REAL REAL?
YOU MEAN IT?
REALLY? REALLY?
I KNOW YOU'LL FIND THEM.

!
YOU TWO.....
LEER
HO HO HO HO.
KUSANO.
AHHH.
SLASH
WRENCH
!
TAKAMI-CHAN.
TAKAMI-CHAN.
SLIP
TAKAMI-CHAN.
TAKAMI-CHAN...?

N—
SHOVE
SWIRL
UWAHHH!
WAHHH!
HIC.
WAHH.
RIP
NOOOO!

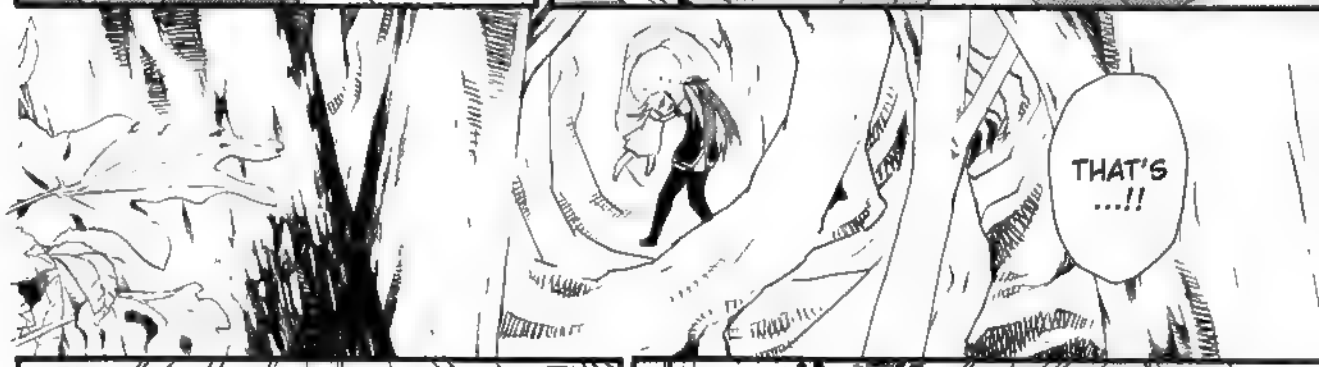
WAHHHH!
KUSANO !!
WAHHHH!
KUSA-NO...
WAHHH ...

KU-CHAN!!
WAH.
WAH ...
BIG BROTHER ...?
PEEK
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN HIDING.
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.

WELL?
WON'T YOU ACCOMPANY ME BACK TO MY MASTER?
HIC.
H—
WHAT'S WRONG?
NO...IT'S NOTHING...
WH-WHAT IS THIS?
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
MY HEART JUST STARTED POUND-ING...
ミュキン!!!
BADUM
!

MY LUNGS HURT.
WHEEZE...
WHEEZE...
AH...!

I-I JUST FELT LIKE I HAD TO START RUNNING, OR...
IF IT'S NOTHING, THEN WHY'RE WE RUNNING!?


THAT'S ...!!

SHAKE
N—
NO...

...I WENT THROUGH TO COME FIND YOU?
...AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE ...
SNAP

...MUST RECEIVE PUNISH-MENT.
CHILDREN WHO REFUSE TO LISTEN...

TUG
COME ON...! BE A GOOD GIRL AND FOLLOW ME.

GRAB
KU-CHAN!!
LUNGE
!!

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
GYAHH!

WHAT IS THIS, YOU PERVERT!?
EXCUSE ME... WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GRABBING.
PLEASE RELEASE ME.
HEY, LOSER.

HUH?
JUST HOLD HER DOWN LIKE THAT.

SIZZLE
SIZZLE
WHY ME TOO?

YOU TWO ...!!
GLARE

CRACKLE

THOSE TWO DON'T HAVE IT SO EASY, I GUESS...

I UNDERSTAND YOU TWO ARE BUSY WITH PART-TIME JOBS TO PAY THE BILLS!?
THE PAIR WITH A TRASHY PIMP OF AN ASHIKABI...
...HIKARI AND HIBIKI!!
SHADDUP, YOU TREACHEROUS BITCH.

IGNORING
HIKARI... THAT'S JUST SOUR GRAPES...
TEARS OF BLOOD
I'D MUCH RATHER HAVE YOUR GOOD-LOOKING, BRILLIANT, RICH ASHIKABI!!

SIGH...
SO WE FINALLY MEET.

...
BROTHER
...?
...KU'S
BIG...
ARE
YOU...

KU-
CHAN?
TOPPLE
!!
KU-
CHAN!?

THE LIKES OF YOU AREN'T FIT TO TOUCH HER!!
GET AWAY FROM THAT CHILD!!
YOU! THE PER-VERT!!
P-PERVERT ?
MY MASTER HAS HAD HIS EYE ON THAT SEKIREI.
WAHH!
GRAB

TENSE
TENSE

MINATO-SAN!

KYAHHH!
SNAP
I'LL HAVE TO BREAK IT.
THERE!
THAT WAS DANGER-OUS. YOU SHOULDN'T SWING BLADES AROUND!
MU—
MUSUBI-CHAN!!
M-MY...
MY PRECIOUS DEATH SCYTHE, YOU...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH. Y—
HERE, MINATO-SAN!
YOU FORGOT THIS.
BUT WHY'RE YOU HERE, MUSUBI-CHAN?
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU... CAME ALL THIS WAY...
...JUST TO RETURN THIS TO ME...?
YES!

!
NO. COULD THIS PERVERT BE AN ASHIKABI...!?
THIS SEKIREI'S PRESENCE MEANS THAT...
PER-VERT... BORE...
YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH.
...IS AN ASHIKABI, JUST LIKE MY MASTER !?
THIS DRAB, SIMPLE BORE OF A MAN...
IT CAN'T BE!!
SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
...COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES MINATO-SAN GREAT!

MINATO-SAN! PLEASE STAND BACK.
...HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME THAT WAY?
IT'S DOWN-RIGHT MADDEN-ING...!
YOU UTTERLY CHARMLESS SEKIREI...
FSSHH
FSSHH
FSSHH
I CAN'T...
...ALLOW THIS!!
YANK

HO HO HO.
!!
RIP
THAT'S A MUCH BETTER LOOK FOR YOU.
WELL.
WHY DON'T WE STRIP YOU ALL THE WAY DOWN?

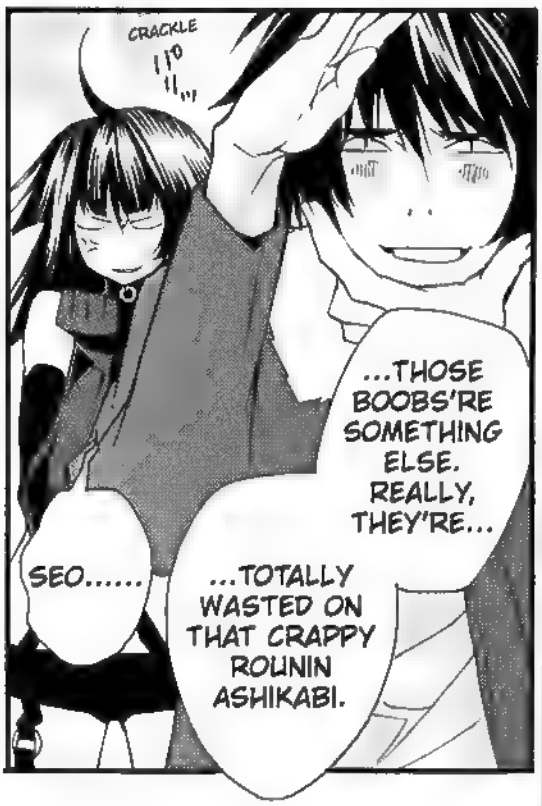
Chapter 9: Conclusion

HO HO HO HO.
THAT'S A GOOD LOOK FOR YOU.

MUSUBI-CHAN!!
SUCH A SHABBY, PERVERTED ASHIKABI...
PERVERTED.
SHABBY.
UHH... SHE'S NOT LEAVING ANYTHING OUT.
...DESERVES A SEKIREI JUST AS SHAMEFUL.
YES, INDEED!!
FWOOSH
!!
SHRED

SHUDDER
SHUDDER
YES, SO VERY SHAMEFUL.
WHAT A SHAMEFUL LOOK FOR YOU.

WHEN I STRIP OFF YOUR LAST REMAINING GARMENT.
NOW, THE MOMENT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR—


CRACKLE
SEO.....
...THOSE BOOBS'RE SOMETHING ELSE. REALLY, THEY'RE...
...TOTALLY WASTED ON THAT CRAPPY ROUNIN ASHIKABI.

HER SPECIAL SKILL IS "KAMAI-TACHI."
SHE CAN CREATE INVISIBLE BLADES OF AIR.
ISN'T HER BLADE BROKEN?
HOW'S SHE DOING THAT?

...EVEN SO...
RIGHT. YOU GUYS ARE WAY BEYOND HUMANS.

COMPLAINING ABOUT PERVERTS? POT, MEET KETTLE.
FOR REAL.
HOW VULGAR OF YOU THOUGH.
ATTEMPTING TO STRIP DOWN YOUR OPPONENT IN BATTLE.
CRACKLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SEO
KILLING THIS GIRL WILL TAKE A MOMENT, BUT IF YOU WAIT AROUND, I'LL HAPPILY TAKE CARE OF YOU NEXT.
YOU TWO!! LISTEN UP!!
TWITCH
TCH.
YEAH, LONG TIME NO SEE.
DON'T WORRY— WE WON'T ATTACK YOU AGAIN. THAT MAKES US ALLIES.
...AH!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, SEO?
BACK HER UP?
NAH.
BETTER NOT GO MESSING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S BUSINESS.
THAT SEKIREI'S ALREADY CHOSEN HIM AS HER ASHIKABI.
SO IT'S THEIR BATTLE NOW.
GRIP
ぎゅっ
MUSUBI-CHAN.
DON'T WORRY, MINATO-SAN.

MUSUBI WON'T LOSE!

MODESTY, REALLY...?
MUSUBI-CHAN.
LOOKING LIKE THAT?

MUSUBI-CHAN!
I DIDN'T FORGET MY MODESTY.

POINT
NOT TO THAT PERVERTED BULLY OVER THERE.
WHAT'D YOU SAYYYY?

SUCH IMPU-DENCE...
TWITCH
ヒク...
THAT'S THE LAST BIT OF BRAZEN NONSENSE I'LL BE HEARING FROM YOU...!

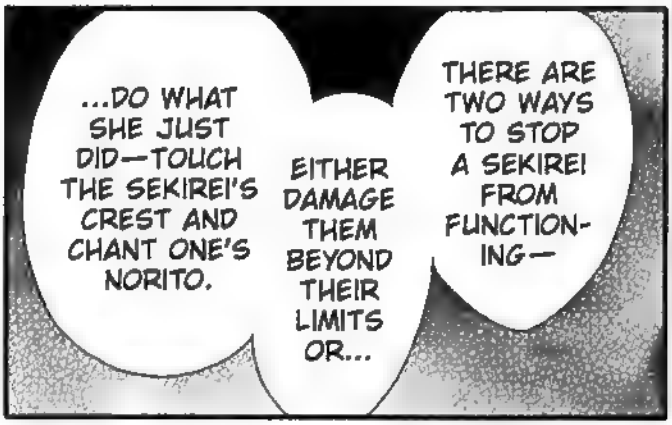
YES.
I UNDER-STAND, LANDLADY-SAMA!
AS IF YOU HAD THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF THE COUNTLESS GODS.
LET YOUR BODY FLOW. THAT'S WHERE YOUR POWER COMES FROM.
TRY A MORE RELAXED AND NATURAL STANCE.
FWOOSH
WHOOSH
I WILL END YOU!!
FROM THE FLOW OF THE AIR.
I CAN SEE THEM!

THWAK
DODGE
DODGE
RIP
GRAB

!!
KYAHHHH!
NOOOO!
TOUCH

BY THE FIST OF MY CONTRACT...
GLOW
...SHATTER THE MISFOR-TUNES...
...OF MY ASHIKABI!!

SHE JUST CHANTED HER NORITO.
WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?


...DO WHAT SHE JUST DID—TOUCH THE SEKIREI'S CREST AND CHANT ONE'S NORITO.
EITHER DAMAGE THEM BEYOND THEIR LIMITS OR...
THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO STOP A SEKIREI FROM FUNCTION-ING—

WH—

FADE
スト...
THE CREST WILL THEN DISAPPEAR.
ONCE THE CREST IS GONE, A SEKIREI WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION.

...THIS SEKIREI ...
...COULD LOSE TO...

UNTHINK-ABLE...!
THAT... I...

I PRESERVED MY MODESTY !!
I MANAGED...
...TO KEEP MY BREASTS COVERED UNTIL THE VERY END!!
CLENCH
MAS...
...TER...!
MINATO-SAN!
MU—
MUSUBI-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
WELL... SHE'S...
IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY...
?
UMM.
WHO'S THIS GIRL...?

GRIND
HMPH.
HER SIGNATURE HAS VANISHED .....
YOMI...
HOW USELESS SHE WAS.
RUMBLE
FLIK

THEY'VE BEEN FIGHTING LIKE THIS SINCE TWO CHAPTERS AGO.
SPLASH
SPLASH
SHINK
THIS...FIGHT OF OURS... IT SEEMS...
...RATHER UNPRODUCTIVE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
YOU... MAY BE RIGHT...
SCREEE
!
...UNDER-STOOD.
OUR BATTLE IS OVER, THEN.
ENOUGH, AKITSU.
YOMI LOST. ...WE'RE LEAVING.

WAIT.
WHY IS A SCRAPPED NUMBER OUTSIDE OF THE...?
WAIT.
YOU...
VROOM
CLOSE

!

AHHH, GUESS WE'RE DONE HERE.
.....

AH.

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S ALL OVER ALREADY.
THE GIRL OF GREEN SUMMONED HER OWN ASHIKABI HERSELF.
YOU TWO...
HOW INCORRIGIBLE. YOU STILL INSIST ON ATTACKING UNWINGED SEKIRE!...?
...!?
KU-CHAN.
KU-CHAN!
KU-CHAN!!

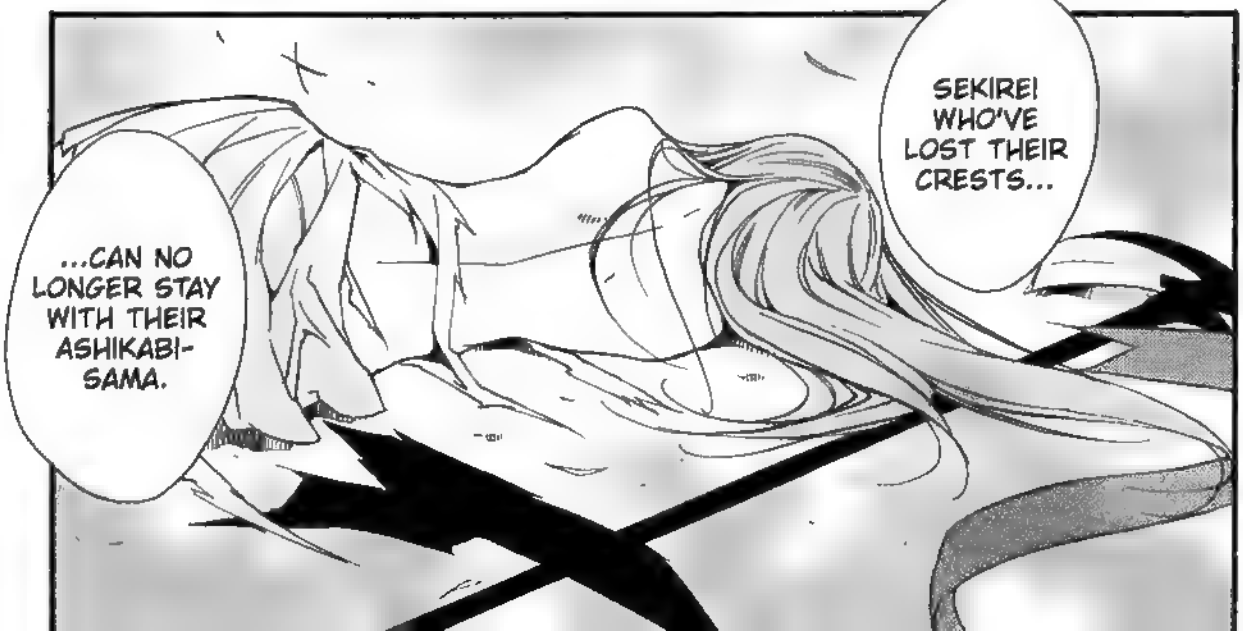
M-MY SECOND ?
MINATO-SAN, SHE'S DEFINITELY YOUR "SECOND"!
WHAT!!?
NOT AGAIN! KU-CHAN!!
SLUMP
KU-CHAN?
GURGLE
UHH...
NYU...
I'M...
...
HUNGRY
...
BUT WAIT. WH-WHAT ABOUT KU-CHAN, EXACTLY?
MU-MUSUBI-CHAN, YOUR CHEST...
HOW WONDERFUL, MINATO-SAN!!

F-WOOM
F-WOOM
F-WOOM

THEY MUST HAVE COME TO RETRIEVE ...
...HER.
WHERE'RE SEO-SAN AND THE OTHERS ANYWAY?
W-W-WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE.
I LEFT A BIG SCENE AT THE ENTRANCE. ...CRAP.

!
MBI'S HELICOP-TERS.

HUH ...?
RE-TRIEVE ...?


SEKIRE! WHO'VE LOST THEIR CRESTS...
...CAN NO LONGER STAY WITH THEIR ASHIKABI-SAMA.

I'M BACK.

PROBABLY. IZUMO INN...
... WILL BE GETTING ANOTHER RESIDENT.

I'M SORRY, MIYA ...
...BUT COULD YOU PREPARE AN EXTRA DINNER PORTION?
THAT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL. ARE WE EXPECTING A GUEST?

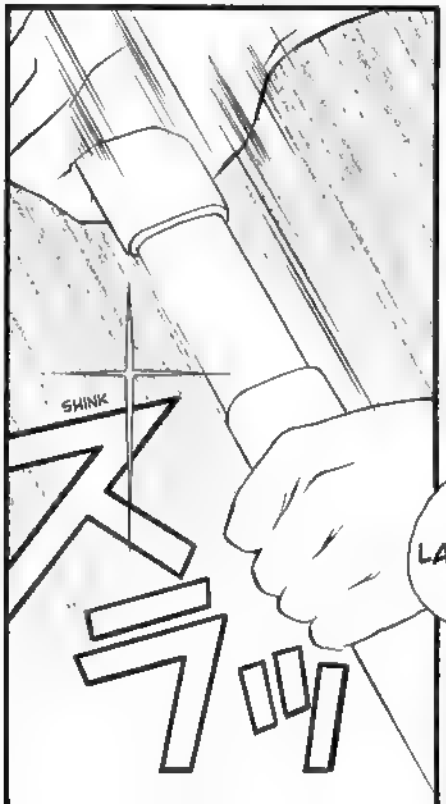
OH, KAGARI-SAN.

WELCOME BACK.

?

Chapter 10: Winging

SFX: TMP TMP TMP TMP



POINT
EEP...
KIDNAPPING IS A VERY SERIOUS CRIME, YOU KNOW...
N-NO, WAIT, THAT'S NOT IT!!
UHH, THIS GIRL... SHE'S, UM...
GURGLE
GROWL
OW...
NO MORE BULLYING ...
NO...
BIG BROTHER ...

KU-CHAN.
GRIP
UMM... SHE'S VERY HUNGRY, AT ANY RATE.
COULD WE MAYBE GET HER SOMETHING TO EAT?
OHH!
SO SHE'S A RELATIVE OF YOURS?
YEAH... HA-HA.
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
GOBBLE

MIYA ...
...I'M LEAVING, SO DON'T BOTHER WITH MY DINNER.
TH-THIS SUCKS.
BUT I'M SWORN TO SEKIREI SECRECY.
SOME THINGS HAPPENED, SO I'M TAKING CARE OF HER NOW.
YOU POINTED A SWORD AT ME BEFORE I COULD...!!
I'M AFRAID I COMPLETELY MISUNDERSTOOD... U-FU-FU.
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO FROM THE VERY START.
I'M WORKING AS AN ESCORT TONIGHT. I HAVE TO GIVE IT MY ALL.
OH. I RARELY SEE YOU WEARING A TIE.
IT'S WITH A VERY DEPENDABLE WOMAN.
BEFORE WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, SHE'S TREATING ME TO DINNER.
WHAT DOES "ES-CORT" MEAN?
SOUNDS LIKE AN R-RATED CONVERSATION.
SO HE'S NEVER WORN A TIE BEFORE?

KU—
KU-CHAN!?
CLATTER

WOW!
THAT'S ABOUT IT, IN A NUT-SHELL.
SWAY うつら
SWAY うつら
MUSUBI WANTS TO BE A HOST TOO.
MU-MUSUBI-CHAN...
...I DON'T THINK YOU REALLY GET WHAT A HOST DOES.

HFF.
HFF.

KU-CHA...

SHE'S SLEEPING .....

FU-FU... LOOKS LIKE A FULL BELLY PUT HER RIGHT TO SLEEP.
I THINK SHE WAS ALSO REALLY WORN OUT.
PLEASE PUT HER IN MY ROOM.
I'LL LAY OUT AN EXTRA FUTON.
UH, NO, I CAN'T LET YOU GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE ...
I CAN'T LET ONE OF MY DEAR TENANTS TURN INTO A CRIMINAL. ♡
YEAH, OF COURSE ...
!?
SHOCK
SIGH.
JUST HOW DANGEROUS DO YOU THINK I AM?
LAND-LADY...

BEEP
BEEP
HOW DECADENT.
GREETING ME ALL IN BLACK?
BECKON

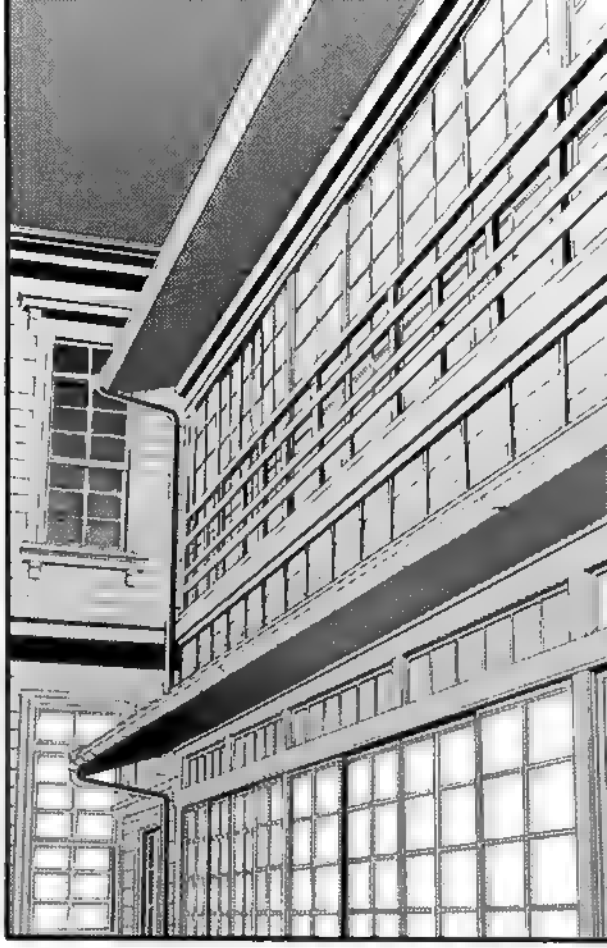
I MADE YOU A PROMISE, DIDN'T I?
BESIDES, IT'S MORE FUN IF WE GO ALL-OUT.
HOW IS NUMBER 108?
CLOSE
SORRY FOR ALL THE RECENT TROUBLE I CAUSED YOU.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE AWARE.
A SWEET FACE BUT SUCH HARSH WORDS.
AH HA HA.

SHE EVEN LOOKED CHERUBIC AS SHE SLEPT.
SHE'S STABILIZED.
NO IRREGULARITIES THAT I COULD DETECT.
THAT'S ONE SCAAARY LANDLADY YOU'VE GOT.
THAT RIGHT? ...WELL...
...LONG AS SHE'S AT YOUR PLACE, I'M NOT WORRIED.
NO NEED FOR ME TO ASK.
I KNOW ABOUT HIM BETTER THAN ANYONE.
FLIP
AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT HER ASHIKABI?
THE ONE NUMBER 108 CHOSE?

...THERE'S JUST ONE THING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME.
I RAN INTO A "SCRAPPED NUMBER."
WHY WOULD THERE BE ONE OUT AND ABOUT?
A SCRAPPED NUMBER!?
THAT WAS NEVER MY PROBLEM.
I WAS TOO CONCERNED WITH KUSANO'S MODIFICATIONS...
HOPEFULLY, IT'S JUST ONE OF MINAKA'S LITTLE FRIVOLITIES.
ANYWAY, I'LL LOOK INTO IT.
OH MAN.
BUT FOR TONIGHT ...
...WE CAN HAVE A LITTLE REVENGE ON THAT IDIOT.
SFX: SPARKLE
WITH MINAKA'S CARD IN HAND...
...WE'LL OPEN UP EVERY BOTTLE IN THE CLUB.
AH-HA-HA-HA.
NOW THAT'S WHY I LIKE YOU, TAKAMI-SAN.

YES?
UMM... MUSUBI-CHAN.

NOT SURE WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF YOU HADN'T SHOWN UP...
YOU SAVED ME FROM A REAL PINCH.
THANKS FOR TODAY.



YOU STOOD UP TO THAT BLADE WOMAN TO PROTECT SOMEONE WEAKER.

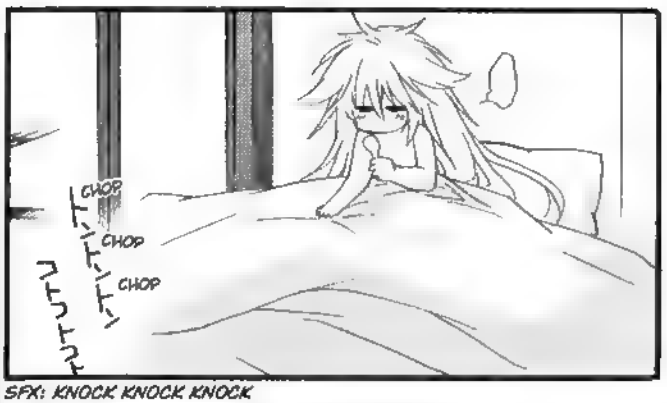
NOT EVERYONE COULD HAVE DONE THAT.

NAW... HA-HA.
I WAS PRACTI-CALLY IN A DAZE AT THAT POINT.

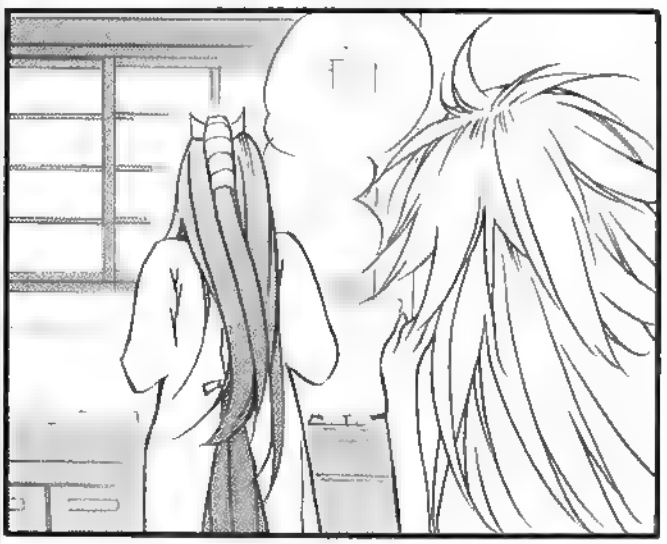
NOT AT ALL!
YOU WERE AMAZING, MINATO-SAN.

AH...
WHY'M I SHAKING LIKE THIS ?
AH...
カタカタカタカタ
AND I'D NEVER SEEN SUCH A GIANT SCYTHE BEF—
ブル
TREMBLE
SFX: SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
TOUCH
ス...
I STOPPED SHAKING...
IT'S OKAY...
...I WILL PROTECT YOU.
MINATO-SAN...

NAME TAG: SAHASHI



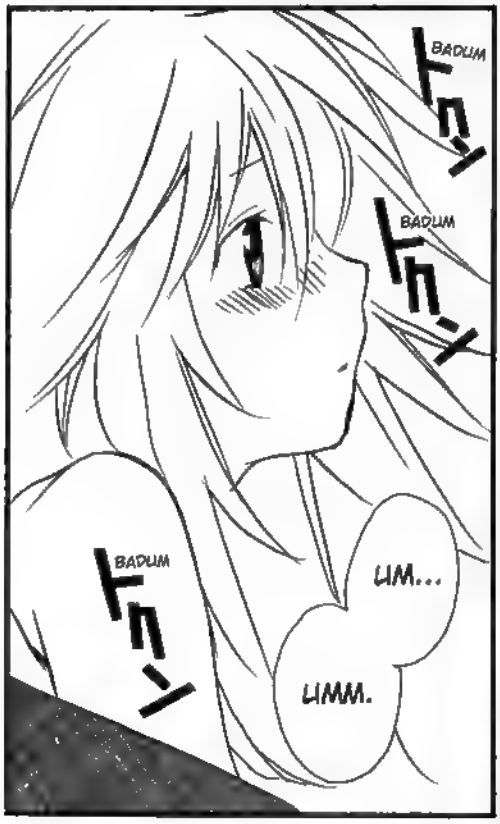
SFX: KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK



AH...
COME ON OVER.
SIT
NICE DAY, HUH?

AH...
ACHOO.
FWUMP
はな
THE TREE IN THIS GARDEN.
THAT'S WHERE I FIRST MET YOU.
IF THE GROWTH IN THE BOTANICAL GARDEN...
...WE WEREN'T SERIOUSLY HURT.
IT WAS TOTALLY LIKE THE TREE HELPED BREAK OUR FALL.
...WAS REALLY KU-CHAN'S DOING...
I THINK THAT, MAYBE ...
...IT WAS YOU WHO SAVED US...
AND AMAZINGLY, EVEN THOUGH WE FELL FROM SO HIGH UP...
MUSUBI-CHAN AND I FELL DOWN INTO THAT TREE...

SO KU ASKED THIS CHILD TO HELP...
SHE'S A GOOD ONE.
AND THEN KU WAS CRYING, SO SHE TOLD YOU ABOUT KU.
I... HEARD...
...A VOICE. ...YOURS, BIG BROTHER.
YOU SAID "SAVE ME."


BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
UM...
UMM.

LET ME SAY IT AGAIN.
THANK YOU.
IS THAT RIGHT...? WELL...
...I OWE YOU MY LIFE, KU-CHAN.
ALSO THAT GOOD TREE.

BIG BROTHER, I WANT YOU...
...TO PLEASE BE KU'S ASHIKABI.

BLOOM
フワアア。。。
SPRING ONION
WOW...!
三佐

Chapter 11: Sekirei Talks

HIYAHHH.
YAHH.
TWITCH
YAHH.
TWITCH
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HAHH.

GLINT
NOT QUITE THERE YET.
THAT'S THE FIRST THING WE OUGHT TO WORK ON.
YES. I'LL DO MY BEST!
HIYAHH.
...KU-CHAN.
YOU'RE OUT OF BREATH BECAUSE YOU EMPLOY TOO MUCH UNNECESSARY MOVEMENT.
BUT EVEN WHEN RECKLESS, YOU'RE QUITE STRONG, SO YOU END UP RELYING ON THAT WILD STRENGTH.

SEEMS LIKE SHE GETS A KICK OUT OF HOW SCARY IT IS...
ALL RIGHT. I'M OFF TO MY JOB.

IF WATCHING THAT'S TOO SCARY, WHY NOT GO TO MY ROOM? THERE'S A TV...

UHEH...
R-REALLY?
SHAKE
BLUSH
NO...

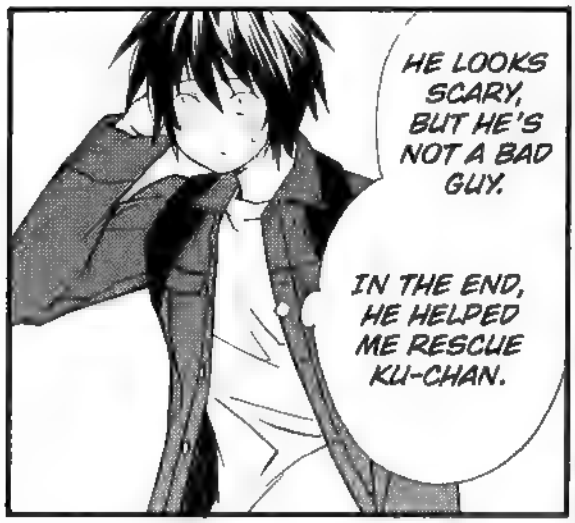
GOOD LUCK, MINATO-SAN!
TRY YOUR HARDEST AT THE PART-TIME JOB.
RIGHT. YOU TOO, MUSUBI-CHAN.
DO YOUR BEST.

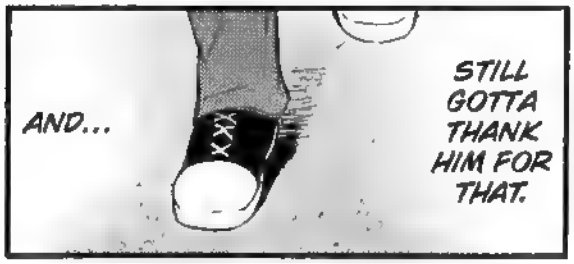
TH-THANKS, AS ALWAYS.
I REALLY APPRECI-ATE IT.

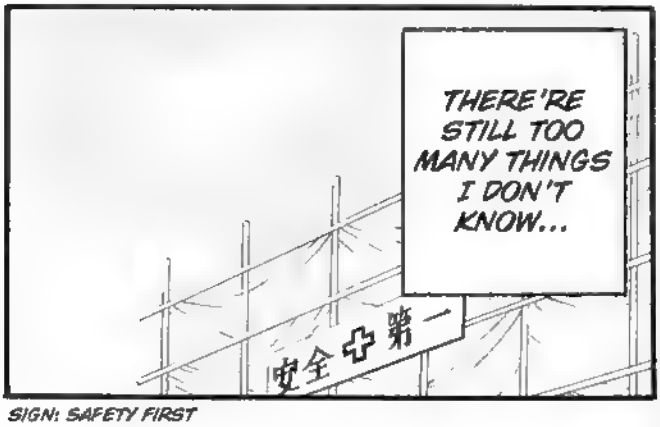
YOUR BENTO IS ON THE KITCHEN TABLE.
HARD WORK MEANS A HUNGRY STOMACH.

BAG: RICE CRACKERS

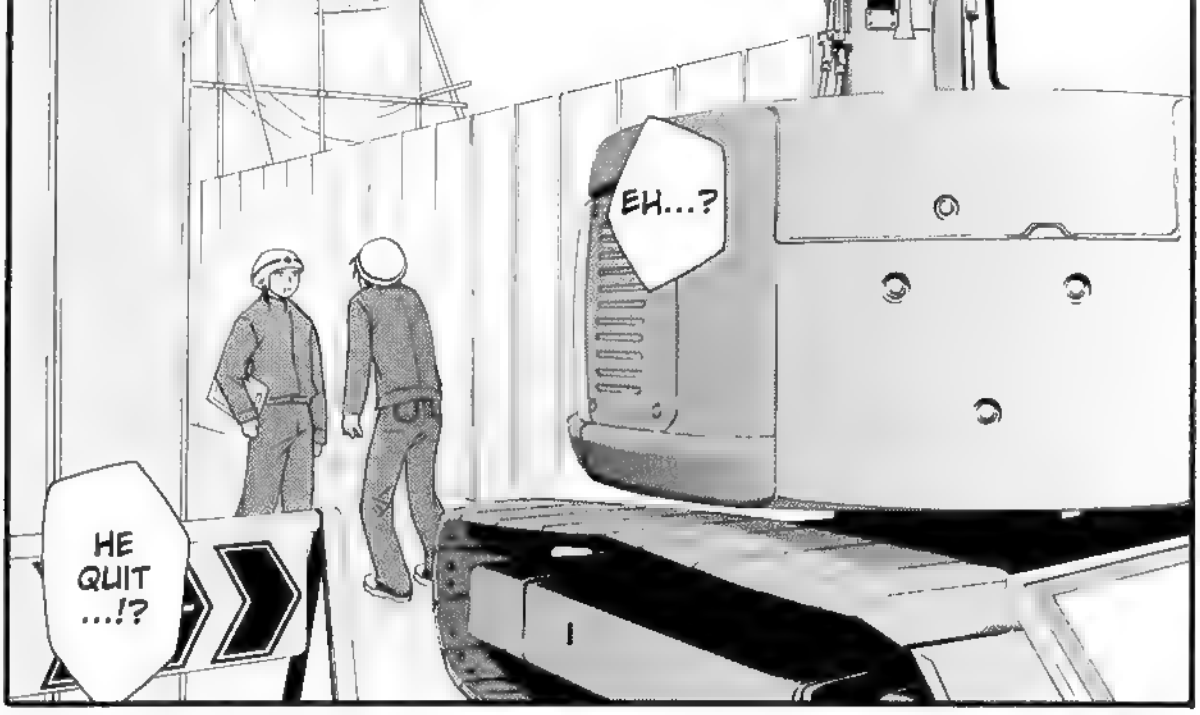
...FULL OF LIFE.







SIGN: SAFETY FIRST


EH...?
HE QUIT ...!?

HA-HA-HA...
HE'S GOT ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH THOSE TWO WHO ALWAYS CAME TO PICK HIM UP.
...BUT I CAN'T HATE THE GUY.

HE SHIRKS, HE SLIPS OFF, AND NOW HE QUITS OUT-RIGHT.
SAID HE WAS SO BUSY WITH ALL HIS OTHER JOBS.
THAT LAZY BASTARD.

WAH-HA-HA-HA. NO NEED TO BLUSH, KID.
NO, SHE'S JUST, WELL, UMM...
EH.
SHE YOUR, UH, GIRLFRIEND, OR WHAT?
YOU TOO, RIGHT? WITH THAT WELL-ENDOWED CHICK WHO CAME FOR YOU THE OTHER DAY?

MINATO-SAN.
I NEVER EVEN GOT A PHONE NUMBER FROM SEO-SAN...
I'M A BLOCKHEAD. I ADMIT IT.
SIGH...
MUSUBI-CHAN!
YOUR DAY IS OVER, RIGHT?
I CAME TO WALK HOME WITH YOU.

SO YOU CAME FOR ME TOO, KU-CHAN.
THANK YOU.
RIGHT ...
...KU-CHAN?
PEEK
おず
EH-HEH...
BADUM
ドキッ
MINATO-SAN! ME TOO! ME TOO!
AH.
SURE.
SQUEEZE
LET'S GO HOME.
HOLD MY HAND?
CON

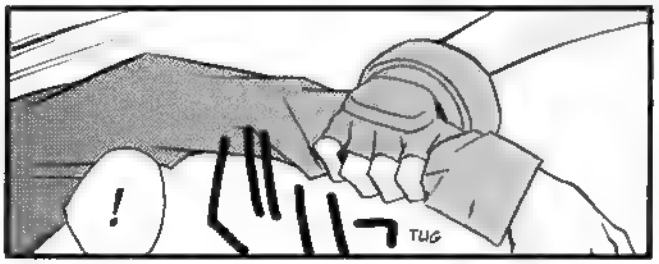
M-MY HAND'S ALL SWEATY.
UWAHHH.

BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM

SHE'S HAVING A GUEST, SO SHE MIGHT NEED MORE RICE.

YES. ♡
AN ERRAND ?
ACTUALLY, LANDLADY-SAN ASKED US TO DO AN ERRAND FOR HER.
SHOCK

NOTE: ERRAND NOTE



Y—
YEAH.
EH-
HEH!
♡
LET'S
HOLD
HANDS
AGAIN.
SQUEEZE
ぎゅ。
HA-HA...
LOOK HOW
POPULAR
I AM.
YES, VERY
POPULAR.

OH MY.
WELCOME BACK!
W—
WE'RE BACK.
I'M SO SORRY. THAT LOOKS HEAVY.
...HA-HA...
N-NOT AT ALL.
A FRIEND OF MY HUSBAND FROM HIS COLLEGE DAYS.
YES.
YOU HAVING... A GUEST?
SIGH

SLAM
HEYA, KID.

THIS MAN... KAORU SEO-SAN ...
HE WAS MY HUSBAND'S GOOD FRIEND.

YOU SURE ARE FALLING DOWN A LOT TODAY, MINATO-SAN.
?

S-S-S-S-SEO-SAN!?
WH-WH-WHY'RE YOU...?
SORRY, MAN. DID I SUR-PRISE YOU?

FU-FU.
AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, HE WOULD ONLY EVER COME FOR A FEW FREE MEALS.
MIYA-CHAN, I CAN TELL YOU REALLY HATE ME.
NOOOO. NOTHING LIKE THAT.
TRASH THOUGH YOU MAY BE, YOU WERE TAKEHITO-SAN'S FRIEND.
TCH...
SAME AS EVER.
SCARY AS HELL.
BUT WAIT, SEO-SAN.
SEEMS LIKE YOU SOMEHOW KNEW I WAS STAYING HERE.
HUH? YEAH.
'COS OF THAT BENTO.
BENTO ...?
THE FOOD YOU SHARED WITH ME.
YEAH.
I RECOGNIZED MIYA-CHAN'S COOKING.
SO THEN I JUST ASKED IF A ROUNIN AND HIS GIRL WERE STAYING HERE, AND...

HEY, YOU IMP!
COME ON OVER HERE.
SFX: TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE
HEY!
OH. HOW'S THE LITTLE TYKE?
WE HAD TO ESCAPE IN A HURRY, SO WE WERE A LITTLE WORRIED.
WHAT THE...? I'M THE NICE GUY WHO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO SAVE YOU.
WELL !?
WHAM
GREAT. NOW THE BRAT'S ABOUT TO CRY...
OOPS. MY HAND SLIPPED.
WOW. THAT PICKLING STONE WENT FLYING THROUGH THE AIR!!

SMILE
DON'T GO PICKING ON SMALL CHILDREN, NOW.
CRACK
RIGHT, YEAH. SORRY 'BOUT THAT. MY BAD.

...YOU NEITHER, MIYA-CHAN.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
YOU REALLY HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL. ♡

LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE COME FOR ME.

NAH. THAT VOICE...
OH. MORE GUESTS ?

UM, PARDON US.

HEY.
THANKS FOR COMING.
AHHH.
BAM POW
ボカスカ
ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE.
AGAIN, REALLY?
UMM. YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE SEEN OUR IDIOT?
UHH... SEO-SAN...
...THANKS FOR EVERY-THING... WITH KU-CHAN.
I'VE... BEEN WANTING TO TELL YOU...

EH...A BUSINESS CARD?
...HERE. TAKE THIS.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD JUST LEAVE YOU OUT THERE ON YOUR OWN.
TAKE THESE, PLEASE.
SO SORRY...
TILT
...RIGHT.

LABEL· RICE

IF YOU'RE EVER IN TROUBLE, GIMME A RING.

WE'RE FRIENDS NOW, Y'SEE.
HE'D CHARGE ME FOR HELP!?
I'LL GIVE YOU A BIG DISCOUNT.

BAGS: RICE, TOYOHARA RICE SHOP

Chapter 12: By My Side

MINATO-SAAAAN...
♡
SHOCK

TH-THANKS, MUSUBI-CHAN.
LUNCH DELIVERY FOR YOU. ♡
YEAH. THANKS.
EAT UP AND STUDY HARD, PLEASE.
IT ALL STARTED THIS MORNING.

I'M OFF, THEN. I'LL BE BACK BY EVENING.
LOOK AFTER THE PLACE, PLEASE.
YESSSS.
TODAY'S HER HUSBAND'S MONTHLY DEATH DAY.
THE LANDLADY WENT OUT TO VISIT HIS GRAVE, SO WE'RE WATCHING THE INN.

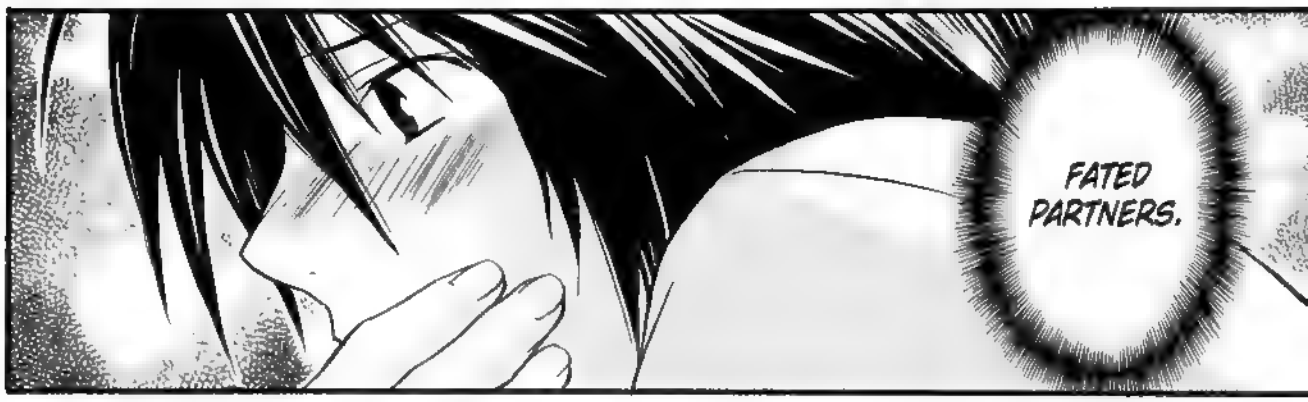
OKAY. TODAY, MUSUBI IS MAKING LUNCH FOR EVERYONE.
YEAHH.
CLAP
BUT MUSUBI-CHAN'S MEALS...
I'M REMEMBERING BACK WHEN IT WAS JUST US TWO...
HERE'S YOUR FOOD, MINATO-SAN.
... YOUR FOOD.
MINATO-SAN...
MINATO-SAN.

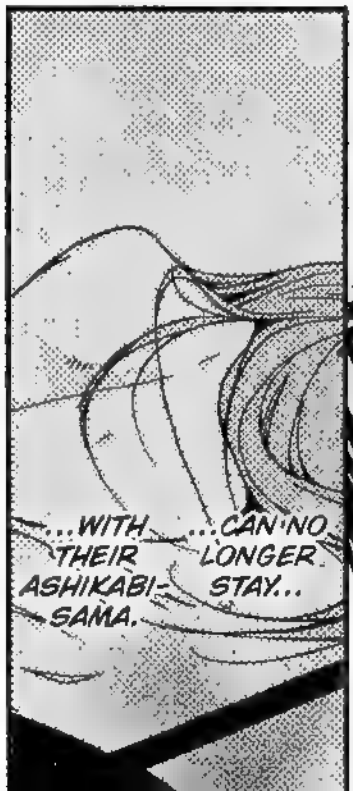
IF WE'LL BE DOING HOUSEWORK, WE NEED SOME APPROPRIATE OUTFITS.
AH-HA! ♪
...IT WAS CURRY HELL EVERY DAY...
THINK-ING BACK ...
SEEMS LIKE CURRY RICE IS THE ONLY THING MUSUBI-CHAN CAN MAKE.
AND ALWAYS JUMBO-SIZED.
AH.
OR DO YOU WANNA PEEK IN ON MUSUBI-TAN WHILE SHE CHANGES?
COME ON, YOU TWO. TO MY ROOM.
?
NO, NO. NO BOYS ALLOWED.
WHAT ...?
AH-HA-HA-HA.
BUT I GUESS JUST SEEING HER CHANGE IS PRETTY MILD, CONSIDERING YOU'VE BEEN LIVING IN THE SAME ROOM TOGETHER.
U—
UZUME-SAN!!

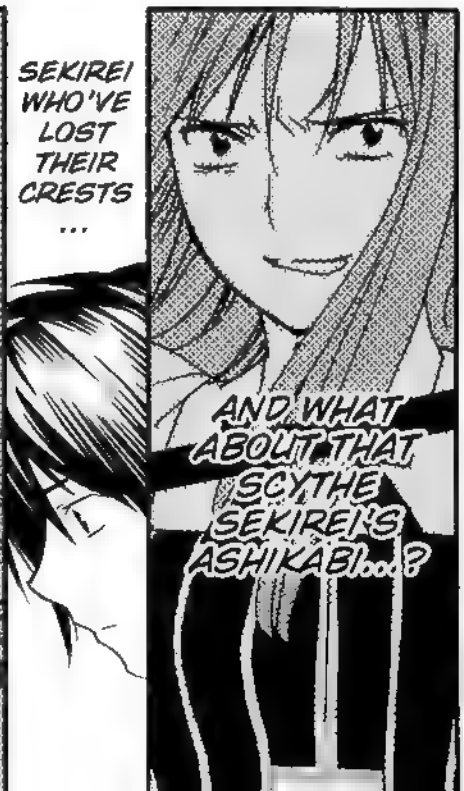
JUST THAT ONE KISS...
AND EVEN THAT WAS ALL FROM HER...
WE'RE NOT DOING ANY-THING...

I CAN IMAGINE YOU'VE BEEN DOING ALL SORTS OF THINGS TOGETHER.
AND IN THE END, YOU ARE SEKIREI AND ASHIKABI...
...FATED PARTNERS.

AH-HA-HA.
DON'T BE BASHFUL ABOUT IT.
CLOSE
NO... WAIT, UZUME-SAN!


FATED PARTNERS.


...WITH THEIR ASHIKABI-SAMA.
...CAN NO LONGER STAY...


SEKIREI WHO'VE LOST THEIR CRESTS ...
AND WHAT ABOUT THAT SCYTHE SEKIREI'S ASHIKABI...?

I'D NEVER TELL A KID LIKE YOU.
WONDER HOW OTHERS ARE ABOUT IT? LIKE SEO-SAN.
YOU TRASH!!

BAM
WHOA.
HEY, KID...
...THEY'RE READY.
UZUME-SAN LENT US THESE. ♡
EH-HEH. ♡
TAKE A LOOK, MINATO-SAN.

MY DEAR HUSBAND. ♡
BLOOM
UZUME-SAN.
COME ON.
...YOU GOTTA SAY, "MY DEAR HUSBAND. ♡"
NO GOOD, NO GOOD. WHEN LOOKING LIKE THAT ...
NOD NOD NOD
YOU LOOK PRETTY CUTE TOO, KU-CHAN.
COULD IT BE? JUDGING FROM THAT LONG TAIL... A JAPANESE WAGTAIL?
AH-HA-HA. SO A SEKIREI'S DRESSED AS A SEKIREI.
どれ
BLUSH
...YES?
DON'T RESPOND SERIOUSLY TO THAT...

ALL RIGHT, I'M HEADING BACK TO BED.
GIMME A SHOUT WHEN LUNCH IS READY.
YAWN.
SHE'S PRETTY MYSTERIOUS... SHE'S GOT HER WINGS BUT NO ASHIKABI I CAN SEE.
THAT IS TO SAY, WHY DOES UZUME-SAN HAVE THESE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
BUT WHY IS MUSUBI-CHAN IN COSTUME ANYWAY?

SO YOU JUST CON-CENTRATE ON YOUR STUDYING.
HEY, MINATO-SAN...
...WE'LL DO AN EXTRA GOOD JOB OF THE HOUSEWORK!

NEXT YEAR FOR SURE... RIGHT...
CLICK

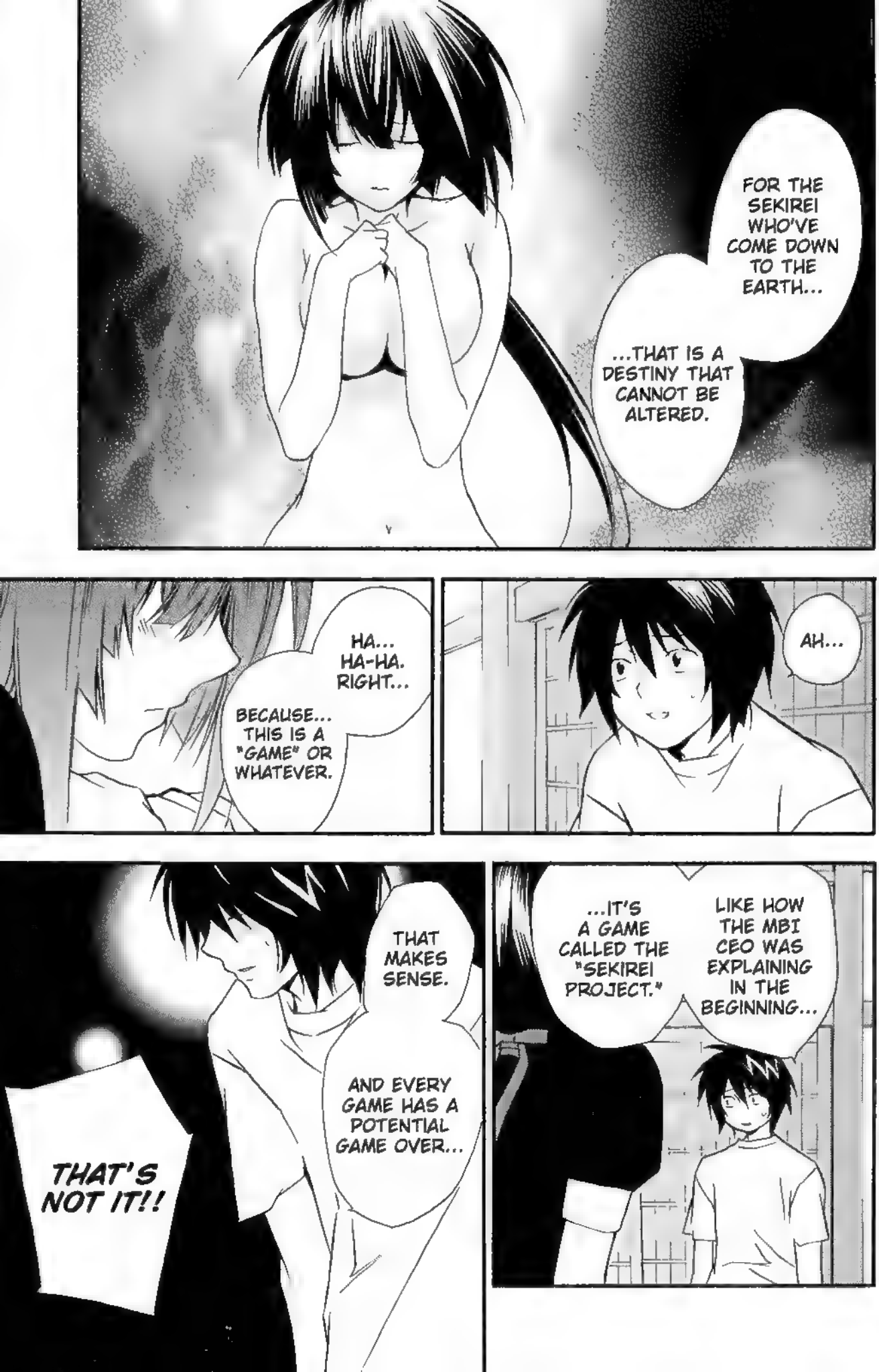
THAT'S RIGHT.
WILL DO.

...I'M ALSO A FULL-FLEDGED CRAM STUDENT.
LET'S GET TO IT!
I'M INVOLVED IN SOME PRETTY CRAZY STUFF, SO I TEND TO FORGET, BUT...

... FOOD .....
THUD
TH—
THANKS FOR...THE...
I'M STUFFED...! COULDN'T EAT ANOTHER BITE...!!
BURP
...HUH?
SHE FELL ASLEEP RIGHT AFTER EATING.
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE'D KU-CHAN GO?
IS THAT JUST...A PREDISPO-SITION...
...OR BECAUSE SHE'S A SEKIREI?
FOUR HOURS?
SHE'S WITH UZUME-SAN.
SHE SURE SLEEPS A LOT TOO.
IT SEEMS HER OPERATIONAL CAPACITY IS FOUR HOURS PER DAY.
SEKIREI...

...TELL ME SOMETHING.
WHAT HAPPENED RECENTLY ...
WHAT WAS THAT, EXACTLY?
LET ME OPEN THE WINDOW.
THE BREEZE WILL FEEL NICE.
... MUSUBI-CHAN...
IS IT THE SAME FOR YOU, MUSUBI-CHAN?
IF YOU LOST LIKE THAT TO ANOTHER SEKIREI...
...WOULD YOU VANISH FROM MY LIFE IN AN INSTANT...?
HOW A SEKIREI WHO'S LOST...
...CAN'T BE WITH HER ASHIKABI ANYMORE.

I WOULD.


FOR THE SEKIREI WHO'VE COME DOWN TO THE EARTH...
...THAT IS A DESTINY THAT CANNOT BE ALTERED.
HA... HA-HA. RIGHT...
BECAUSE... THIS IS A "GAME" OR WHATEVER.
AH...
THAT MAKES SENSE.
AND EVERY GAME HAS A POTENTIAL GAME OVER...
THAT'S NOT IT!!
...IT'S A GAME CALLED THE "SEKIREI PROJECT."
LIKE HOW THE MBI CEO WAS EXPLAINING IN THE BEGINNING...

MU—
MUSUBI-CHA...?
IT'S NOT JUST A GAME.
TUMBLE
WAHH.
EH...
MY FEELINGS ...
MY FEELINGS FOR YOU, MINATO-SAN...
...ARE MORE THAN JUST PART OF SOME GAME...!

FOREVER AND EVER, I WANT...
...TO BE BY YOUR SIDE, MINATO-SAN.
...
MUSUBI-CHAN...
HER DELICATE BODY, SMALL ENOUGH TO BE HELD IN MY ARMS.
HER WARM HANDS... HER SOFT CHEST...
SEKIREI OR NOT, IN THE END, SHE'S BASICALLY AN ORDINARY GIRL. ...BUT EVEN SO...
...I COMPARED HER FEELINGS TO SOME STUPID GAME.
...I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY, MUSUBI-CHA—
THAT'S WHY—!

I WON'T LOSE!
I'LL NEVER LOSE!!

R— RIGHT.
HA HA... HA.
AN ORDINARY... GIRL...?

...THE TRUTH IS, WE SEKIREI ALSO HAVE A REWARD WAITING FOR US.
...THE PROFESSOR ONLY EVER TALKED ABOUT A REWARD FOR OUR ASHIKABI-SAMA, BUT...
WHAT'S MORE...

THE LAST ONE OF US REMAINING GETS TO SPEND FOREVER...
...WITH THE PERSON SHE LOVES MOST.
SO PLEASE DON'T WORRY.
UNTIL THAT DAY, MUSUBI WILL NOT LOSE!

BLUSH
LET'S
D-DO YOU MEAN ...?
WELCOME HOME.
MU-MUSUBI-CHAN.
I'M BACK.
AH, LANDLADY-SAMA.
UM...THE PERSON YOU LOVE MOST...
IS HE...
...YOU SAY.
"SO PLEASE DON'T WORRY..."
YOU'RE JUST THAT STRONG.
RIGHT.
I BELIEVE YOUR PROMISE.

Chapter 13: Yukari Invades

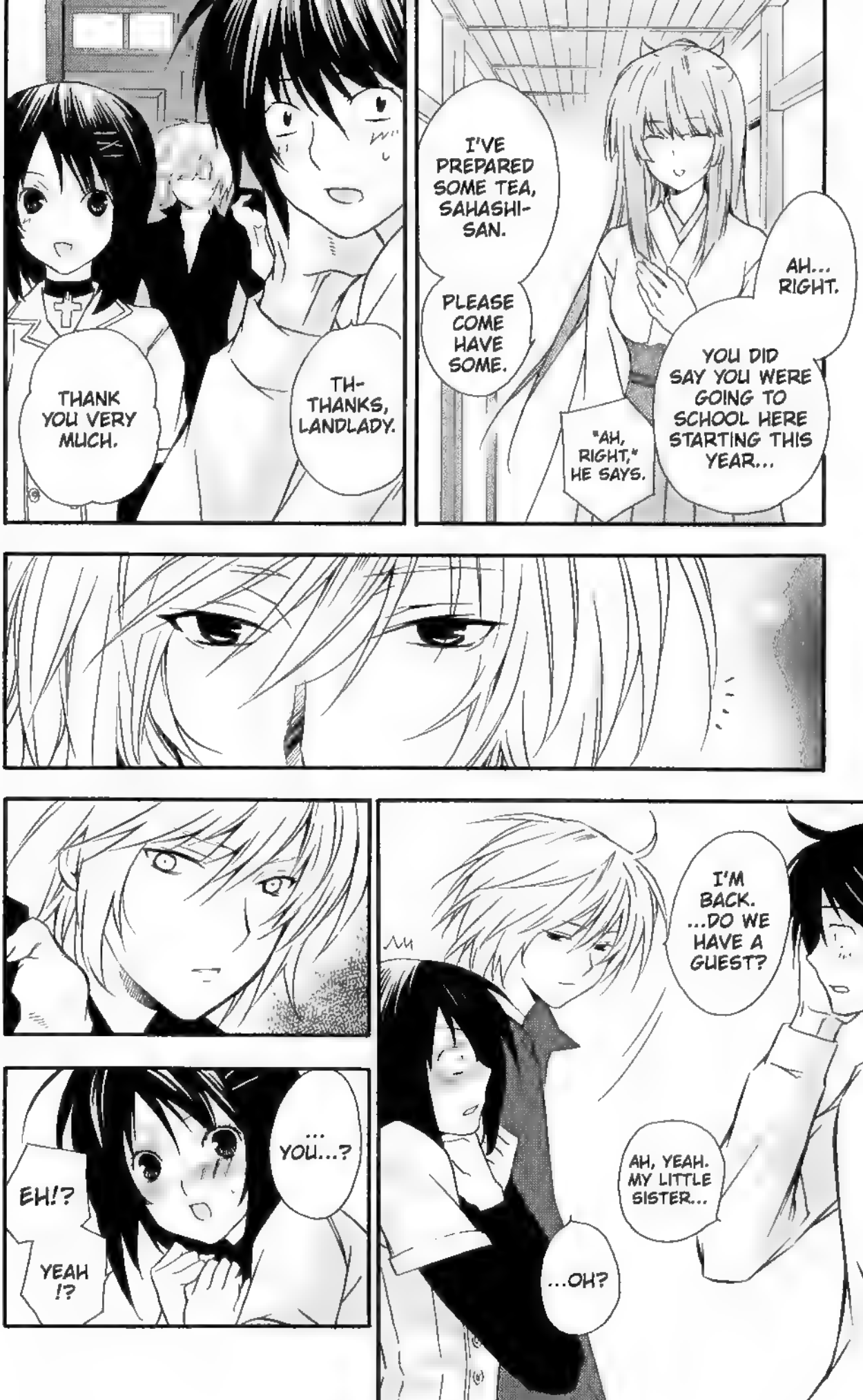
IT'S HERE, RIGHT?
THE "IZUMO INN" WHERE MY BROTHER IS.
STEP
EXCUSE ME.
SWEEP
SWEEP
HMM.
YOU HAVE A VISITOR, SAHASHI-SAN.
SAHASHI-SAN.

HEYA, BIG BROTHER.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
I GOT A HAIRCUT!

AND, YOU KNOW, I MOVED TO THE CITY RECENTLY!
THOUGHT I'D DROP BY TO SEE YOUR NEW PAD AND SAY HI.

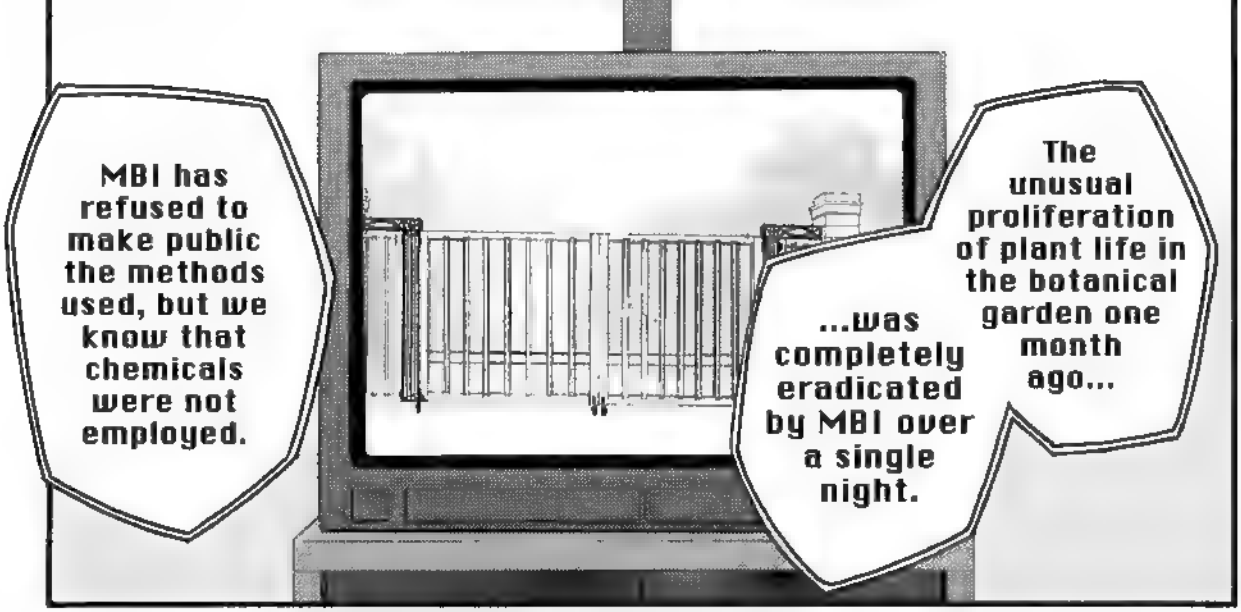
YU—
YUKARI !?

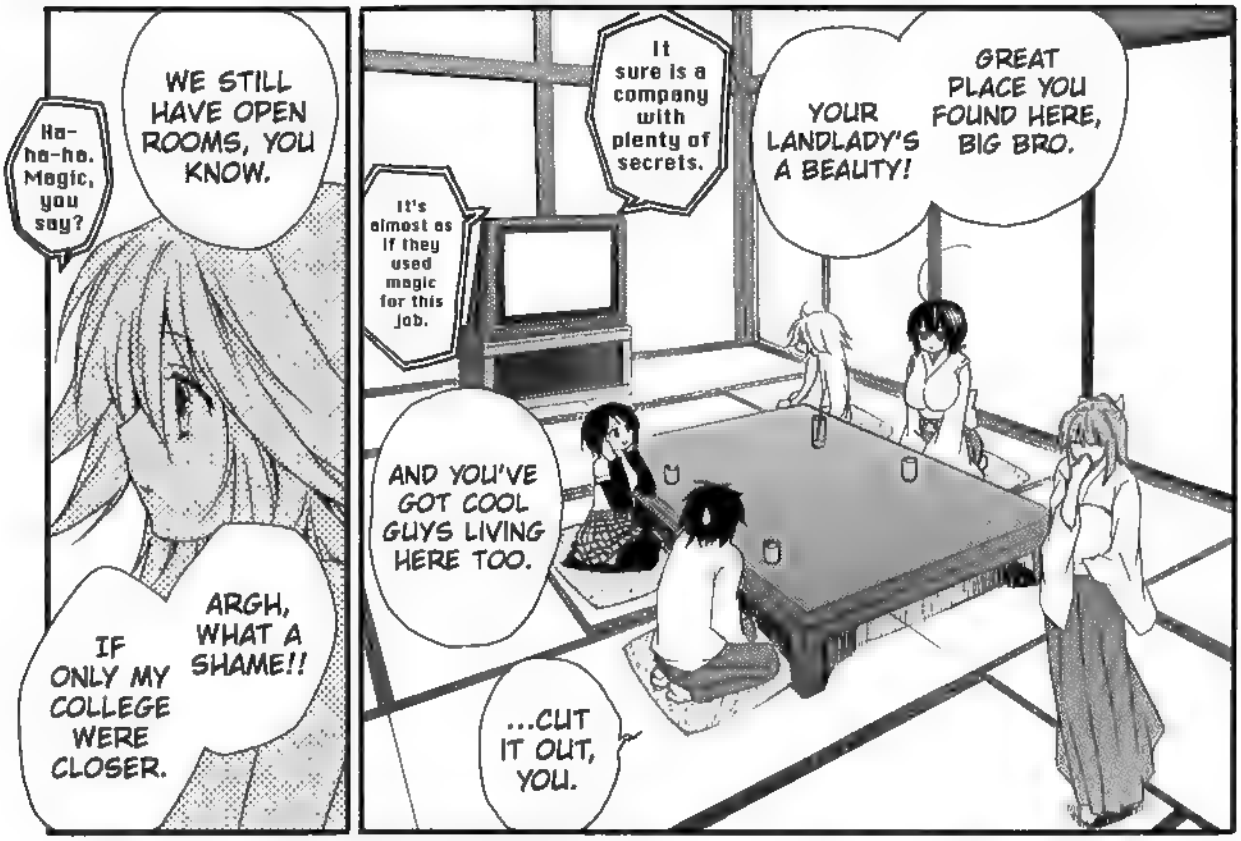
I ASKED MOM, AND SHE SAID YOU JUST PICKED UP AND MOVED.
PFFT.
"WHY"? THAT'S COLD, BIG BRO.
OUT OF NOWHERE... WHY'RE YOU HERE?


THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
TH-THANKS, LANDLADY.
I'VE PREPARED SOME TEA, SAHASHI-SAN.
PLEASE COME HAVE SOME.
"AH, RIGHT," HE SAYS.
AH... RIGHT.
YOU DID SAY YOU WERE GOING TO SCHOOL HERE STARTING THIS YEAR...
...
YOU...?
EH!?
YEAH!?
I'M BACK. ...DO WE HAVE A GUEST?
AH, YEAH. MY LITTLE SISTER...
...OH?

...NEVER MIND...
SORRY. IT'S NOTHING.
PLEASE ENJOY YOUR-SELF.
Y-YES!!
...NUMBER 107?
AH, KAGARI-SAN.
WELCOME BACK.
WE'RE LUCKY THE REGULATIONS WERE FINISHED, BUT...
GOT IT. ...RIGHT.
I'LL HEAD OUT.
?
...IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT TO RUN OUT AGAIN.
SADLY ...
WHAT ?
I'M BACK FROM WORK AND KIND OF EXHAUSTED.
HEY!! EXPLAIN!! WHO WAS THAT, BIG BRO!? HE WAS SUPER COOL!!
NO WAY. YOU LIVE WITH A GUY THAT COOL!?
...HE LIVES HERE TOO. THAT'S KAGARI-SAN.

AHHH, MUSUBI-TAN!!
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.
OH, IT'S YUKARI-SAN!
MMM. I SEE YOUR BOOBS ARE AS LOVELY AS EVER.
YUKARI !!
BOING
BOING
ポヨン
ポヨン
SNRK!
CUT THAT OUT. IT'S EMBAR-RASSING.
OH? YOU RUNNING A MONOP-OLY?
GROPE
GROPE
...For our next news story ...
STOP TEASING YOUR BIG BROTHER ...


The unusual proliferation of plant life in the botanical garden one month ago...
...was completely eradicated by MBI over a single night.
MBI has refused to make public the methods used, but we know that chemicals were not employed.


GREAT PLACE YOU FOUND HERE, BIG BRO.
YOUR LANDLADY'S A BEAUTY!
It sure is a company with plenty of secrets.
It's almost as if they used magic for this job.
AND YOU'VE GOT COOL GUYS LIVING HERE TOO.
...CUT IT OUT, YOU.
WE STILL HAVE OPEN ROOMS, YOU KNOW.
Ha-ha-ha. Magic, you say?
ARGH, WHAT A SHAME!!
IF ONLY MY COLLEGE WERE CLOSER.

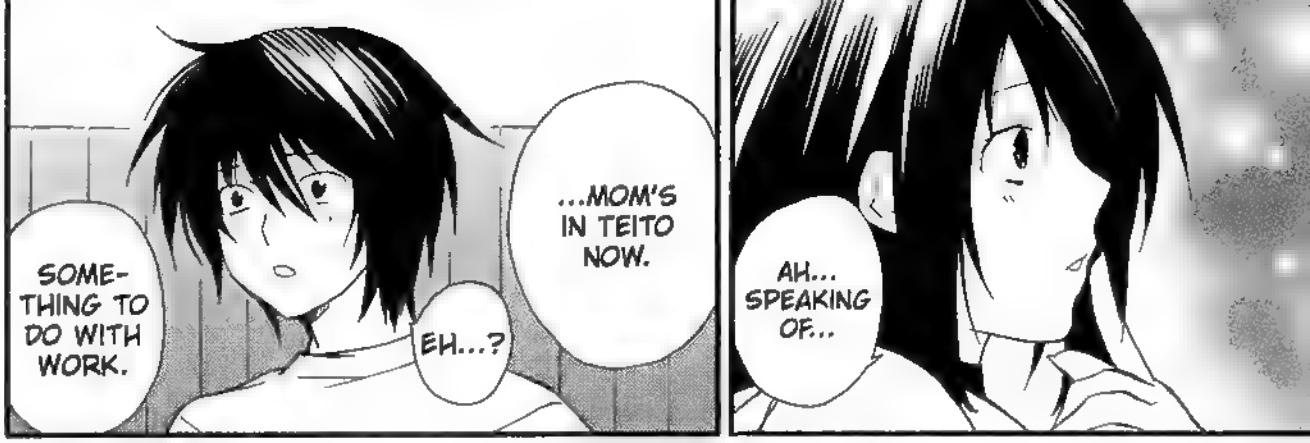
SO WHERE'RE YOU GOING, YUKARI?
SHINTOU WOMEN'S U.
IT'S TOTALLY A LOWER-LEVEL PLACE THAN THE SCHOOL YOU WERE AIMING FOR, BUT ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN BEING A RONIN.

NAH... HA-HA. IT'S EMBAR-RASSING...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BIG BRO!?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...I'VE NEVER ASKED WHAT COLLEGE YOU HOPE TO ATTEND, SAHASHI-SAN.
I MEAN, I'VE ALREADY FAILED TWICE NOW.
So EXCITING.
MINATO-SAN' DREAM SCHOOL.
YOU GOTTA BE MORE CONFIDENT THAN THAT!
AMAZING! ISN'T THAT THE HARDEST COLLEGE TO GET INTO IN JAPAN?
HA-HA... R-RIGHT. MAYBE A LITTLE TOO HARD FOR ME.
SH—
SHINTOU TE! U.
... YEAH.
TOO HARD? NO WAY. NOTHING'S IMPOSSI-BLE.
NOT FOR A GO-GETTER LIKE YOU, BIG BRO!!
DON'T YOU GET IT!? THAT LACK OF SELF-CONFIDENCE IS HOLDING YOU BACK.
YU-YUKARI.
ギャース!
EXASPERATED
KU-CHAN, KU-CHAN!
ISN'T MINATO-SAN GREAT? ♡
EH-HE-HEH!♡
THAT MAKES ME SO HAPPY! ♡

CRY
ぽろ
CRY
ぽろっ
WAHH.
HIC.
KU-CHAN?
...SHI-CHAN.
EH?
WHAT'S WRONG ...
...KU-CHAN?
WAHH.
HIC.
KU-CHAN!?
WHO IS THAT ANYWAY ?
THAT GIRL.
...SHI-CHAN...

SHI-
CHAAAN...

SFX: RANT RANT RANT

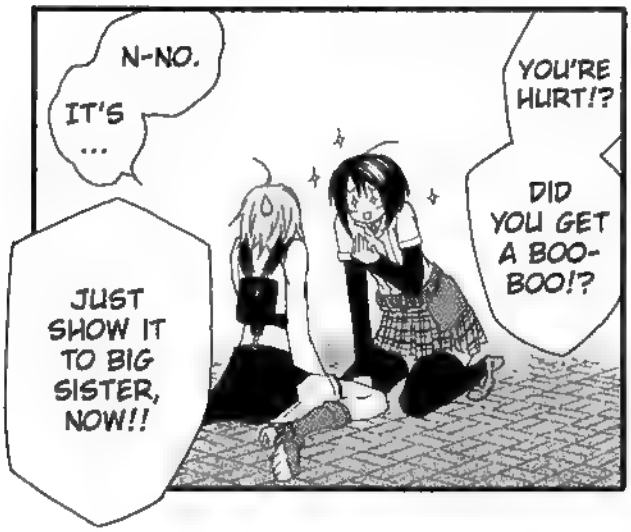

AH... SPEAKING OF...
...MOM'S IN TEITO NOW.
EH...?
SOME-THING TO DO WITH WORK.

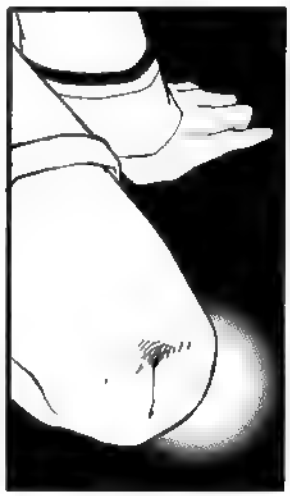
ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK WITH EVERYTHING, BIG BRO!
DON'T GIVE MUSUBI-TAN A REASON TO DUMP YOU! ♡
WHAA ...?
YUKARI !!
AH-HA-HA.
SEE YA.

I FORGOT TO ASK IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT ...
WHO WAS THAT LITTLE KID...?
THE LANDLADY'S GIRL? NAH, TOO OLD FOR THAT.
MAYBE BIG BRO'S NEW GIRLFRIEND !?
IS HE A LOLI-LOVING TWO-TIMER !?
NOOOO:
TMP TMP
SLAM
KYAHH.
OUCH ...
WHAT THE HELL ...?
!!
SHOCK

I'M SORRY.
I'M...
AH...

BEAUTIFUL BOY!!
A B—


N-NO.
IT'S ...
JUST SHOW IT TO BIG SISTER, NOW!!
YOU'RE HURT!?
DID YOU GET A BOO-BOO!?

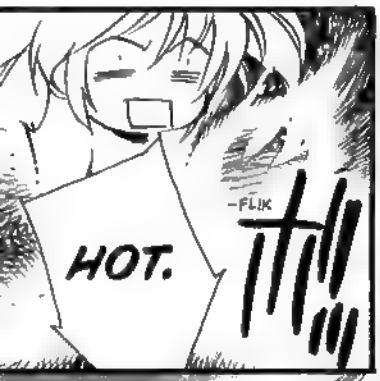


AH.

ENOUGH OF THIS RIDICULOUS CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME!
BE A GOOD BOY AND SUBMIT.
IF I CAN'T GET YOU TO COME WITH ME, MASTER WILL BE SO ANGRY.
I'D NEVER GO WITH PEOPLE WHO TORMENTED KU!
NO THANKS.
TCH.
SHE SEEMS LIKE A REAL BITCH.

DON'T WORRY!
BIG SIS'LL PROTECT YOU.
AH...
!
PAT
...I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT...
IS THIS GIRL ALL THERE IN THE HEAD?
HUH?
KINDLY MOVE OUT OF MY WAY, PEON!!
WHY THE HELL SHOULD I, YOU MORON?
BEAUTIFUL BOYS ARE A NATIONAL TREASURE, YOU KNOW!!
WHAT IS IT...? MY HEART'S AFLUTTER ...
THIS PERSON... THIS FEELING...

BADUM
COULD IT BE? IS SHE ...?
IS SHE.....!?
BADUM

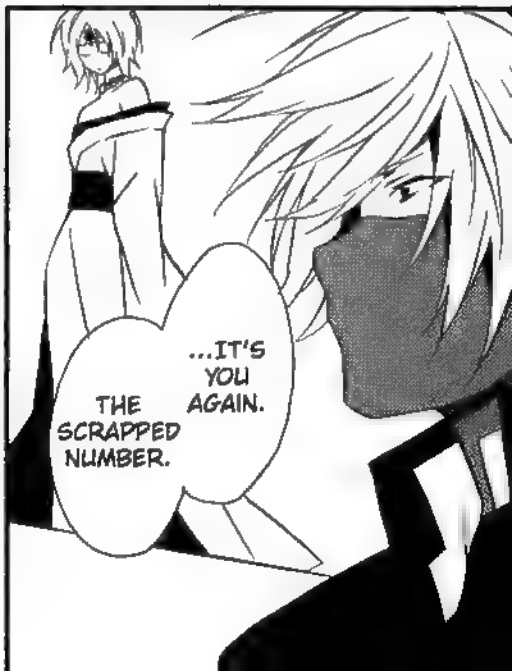

HOT.
-FLIK

FWIP
DON'T THINK I'LL GO EASY ON YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A BYSTANDER !!

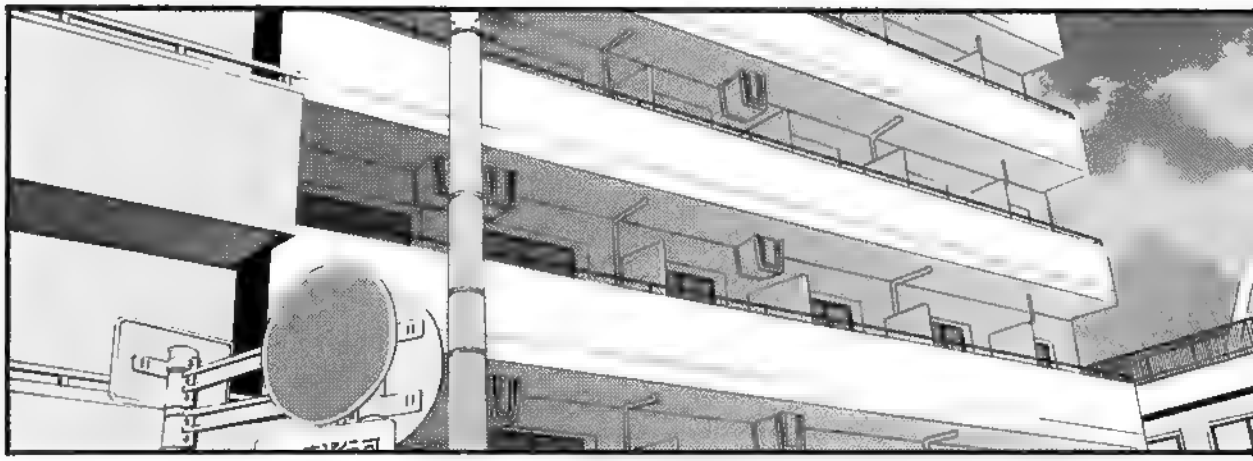
SFX: STOMP STOMP STOMP
KEEEE. SUCH A PEST.
YOU'RE BUGGING ME.
YOU'RE SHOWING YOUR PANTIES TO THE WORLD, AND YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT MY SANITY?

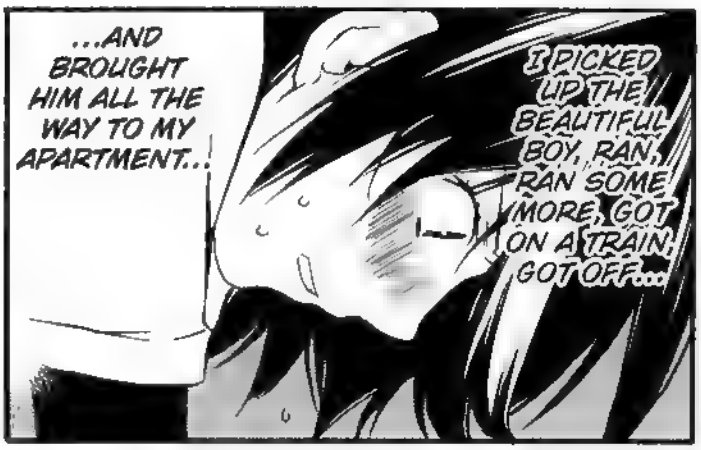
QUICKLY!
BLAZE
RUN AWAY.
TAKE HIM WITH YOU.

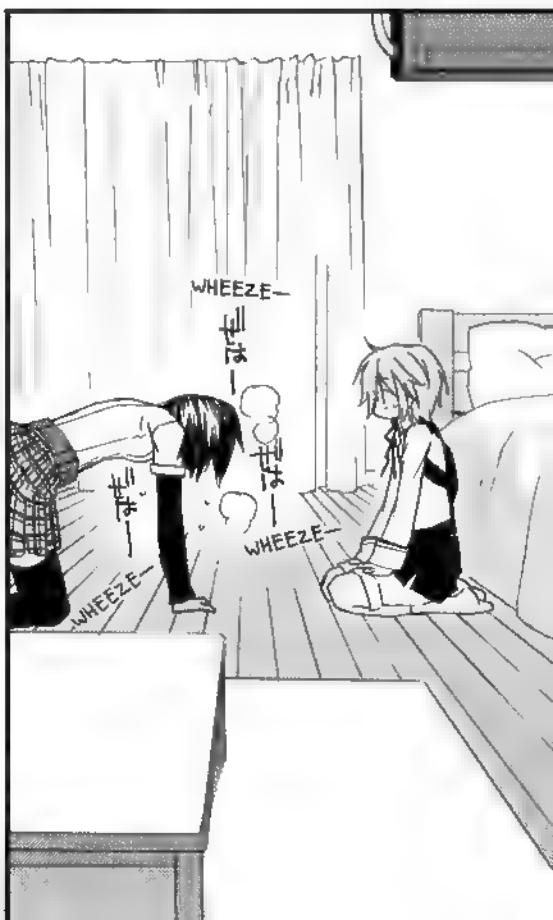
SFX: SIZZLE SIZZLE SIZZLE SIZZLE



JUST TRY IT.
I WILL...
...KILL YOU...!!




...AND BROUGHT HIM ALL THE WAY TO MY APARTMENT...
I PICKED UP THE BEAUTIFUL BOY, RAN, RAN SOME MORE, GOT ON A TRAIN, GOT OFF...


WHEEZE—
WHEEZE—
WHEEZE—
WHEEZE—

WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING!? SERIOUSLY!!
RAN, RAN, AND KEPT RUNNING.

WOW. HE REALLY IS A CUTIE.
THOSE SLIM SHOULDERS, SLENDER WAIST..
AND SO LIGHT... LIGHTER THAN ME, EVEN.
GLANCE
チラッ
HEH... HEH HEH.
SMILE
ニコッ
Y—
UH... UMM.
おんしゃくっ
JERK
YES!?
...I'M... ...DEFI-NITELY ...
...YOUR SEKIREI.

Chapter 14: All Sorts of Situations

KEEEEEE!!

NUMBER 38, MITSUHA...
...YOU CANNOT WIN AGAINST ME.

NUMBER 107 GOT AWAY, AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.
I CAN'T FORGIVE THAT.

YOU'RE THE ONE CALLING HIMSELF THE SEKIREI GUARDIAN.
SHWIP
AN ALLY OF JUSTICE OR SOMETHING? SO ANNOYING!!

BUT I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU...
...BECAUSE MY MASTER FORESAW EVERYTHING!
WHOOSH
YOU'RE ACTUALLY AN UNWINGED SEKIREI!!
NOW, GET HIM, AKITSU!!
BIND
!

SHING
SHING
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
NUMBER 107 MAY HAVE GOTTEN AWAY, BUT...
...I GUESS WE CAN TAKE YOU BACK INSTEAD.

.....
...MY, MY.
...AND YOU'LL BE A GOOD, SUBSERVIENT SEKIREI!
MASTER WILL GIVE YOU YOUR WINGS...

BLAZE
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?

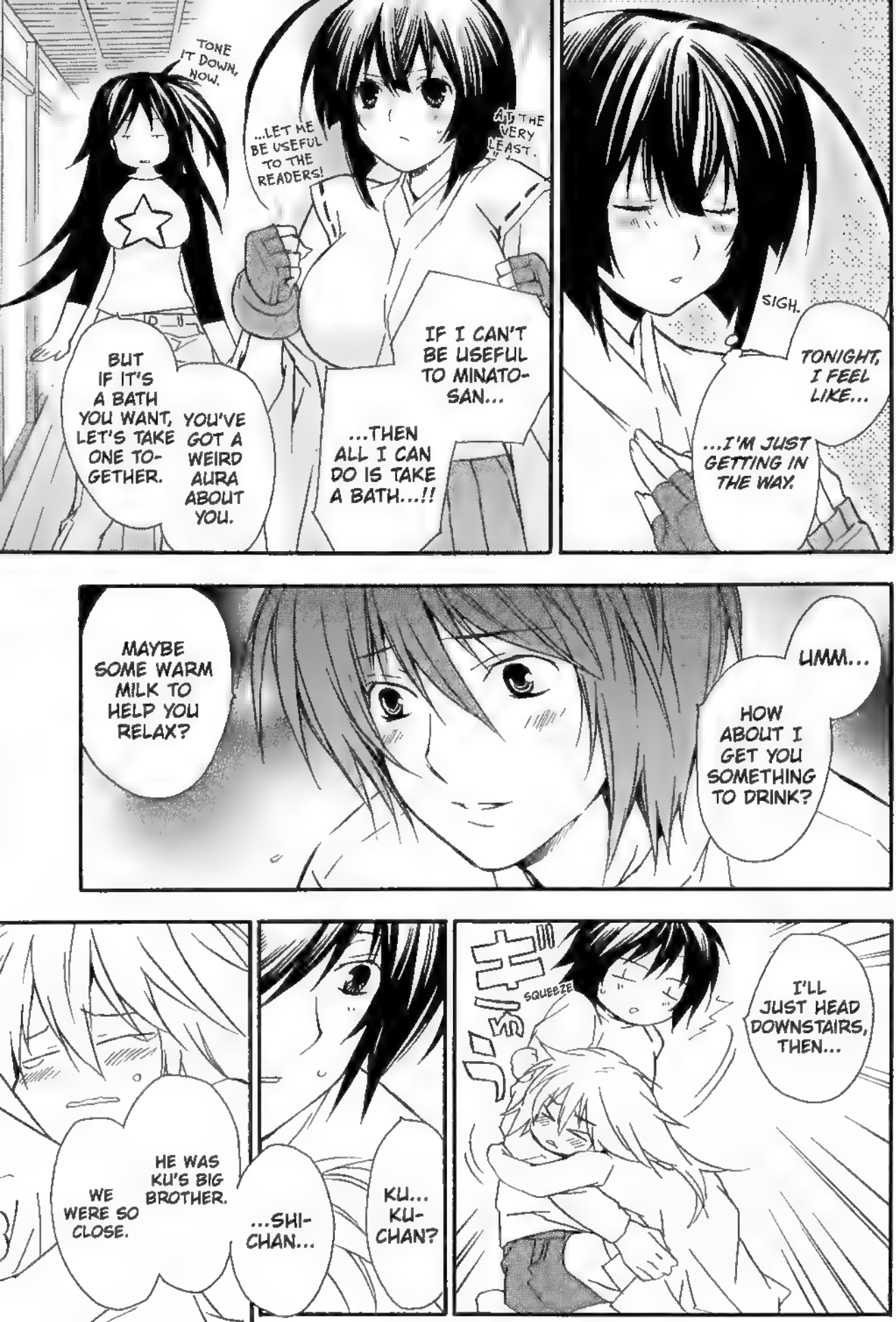
BURN

YOU HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST ME.

ACK, HOT.
SINGE
CRACK
WHOA !?
WHAT NOW!?
CRACKLE
WE CAME BECAUSE WE HEARD THERE WAS AN UNWINGED SEKIREI HERE.
AND HERE WE FIND THE ONE WHO WAS WITH NUMBER 43. MORE OF THAT ASHIKABI'S SEKIREI.
HIKARI! HIKARI! CALM DOWN!
EVEN THAT BIG IDIOT HAS HIS GOOD POINTS, LIKE...
.....
DON'T CALL HIM SCUMMY.
YOU TWO...
HIKARI AND HIBIKI? WITH THAT SCUMMY ASHIKABI ...?

LET'S BE OFF, AKITSU.
THIS HAS GOTTEN A LITTLE TOO RIDICULOUS FOR ME.
WAIT...
GLOOM
NOPE.
NONE AT ALL ...
NOPE... NO GOOD POINTS.
?
FSSSHHH
!!
SLUMP
TMP

...YOU OKAY?
KU-CHAN...
MINATO-SAN...
...PARDON ME FOR A MOMENT.
O-OKAY.
EH?
HIC...
CLUTCH


TONE IT DOWN, NOW.
...LET ME BE USEFUL TO THE READERS!
AT THE VERY LEAST.
BUT IF IT'S A BATH YOU WANT, LET'S TAKE ONE TOGETHER.
YOU'VE GOT A WEIRD AURA ABOUT YOU.
IF I CAN'T BE USEFUL TO MINATO-SAN...
...THEN ALL I CAN DO IS TAKE A BATH...!!
SIGH.
TONIGHT, I FEEL LIKE...
...I'M JUST GETTING IN THE WAY.
MAYBE SOME WARM MILK TO HELP YOU RELAX?
UMM...
HOW ABOUT I GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK?
WE WERE SO CLOSE.
HE WAS KU'S BIG BROTHER.
...SHI-CHAN...
KU... KU-CHAN?
SQUEEZE
I'LL JUST HEAD DOWNSTAIRS, THEN...

KUSANO IS 108. "SHIINA" IS 107.
"THOUGH EXACT OPPOSITES, YOUR ABILITIES ARE COMPLEMENTARY, MAKING YOU LIKE BROTHER AND SISTER."
THAT'S WHAT TAKAMI-CHAN SAID.
KU-CHAN'S ...
... OPPOSITE ABILITY...?
...was completely eradicated by MBI over a single night.
RIGHT. THAT NEWS STORY ...
YOU THINK THIS SHI-CHAN CLEARED OUT THE BOTANICAL GARDEN ...!?

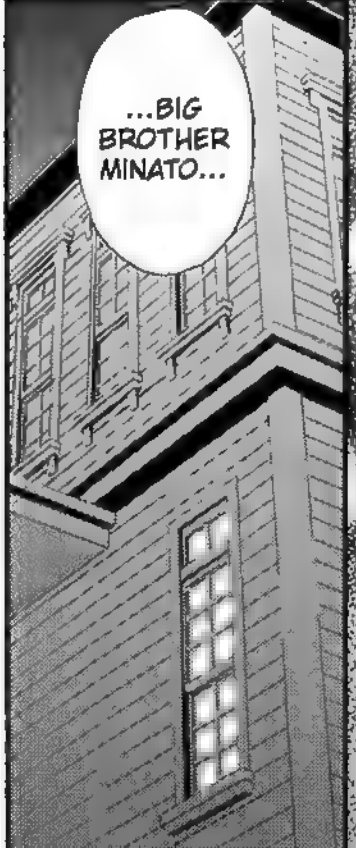
WHAT DO I DO? ...IF...
..IF SHI-CHAN IS GONE...
I'LL MAKE MORE PLANTS.
LOTS MORE.
KU-CHAN.

I'LL BE ALL ALONE AGAIN...
KU-CHAN...
ARE ALL SEKIREI LIKE THAT?
WE EACH HAVE SPECIALIZED ABILITIES.
AND THE ONES WHO CONTROL US ARE ALL THE ASHIKABI-SAMA.
I JUST HOPE THAT THEY...
...ARE KIND PEOPLE LIKE YOU, MINATO-SAN.
THAT WOULD BE NICE.
SQUEEZE

I'M HERE FOR YOU.
IT'LL BE OKAY.

SHAKE
NNN.

AH-HA-HA.
THOUGH, I DON'T KNOW HOW RELIABLE I REALLY AM.


...BIG BROTHER MINATO...

PLEASE ...
...STAY WITH KU FOREVER...

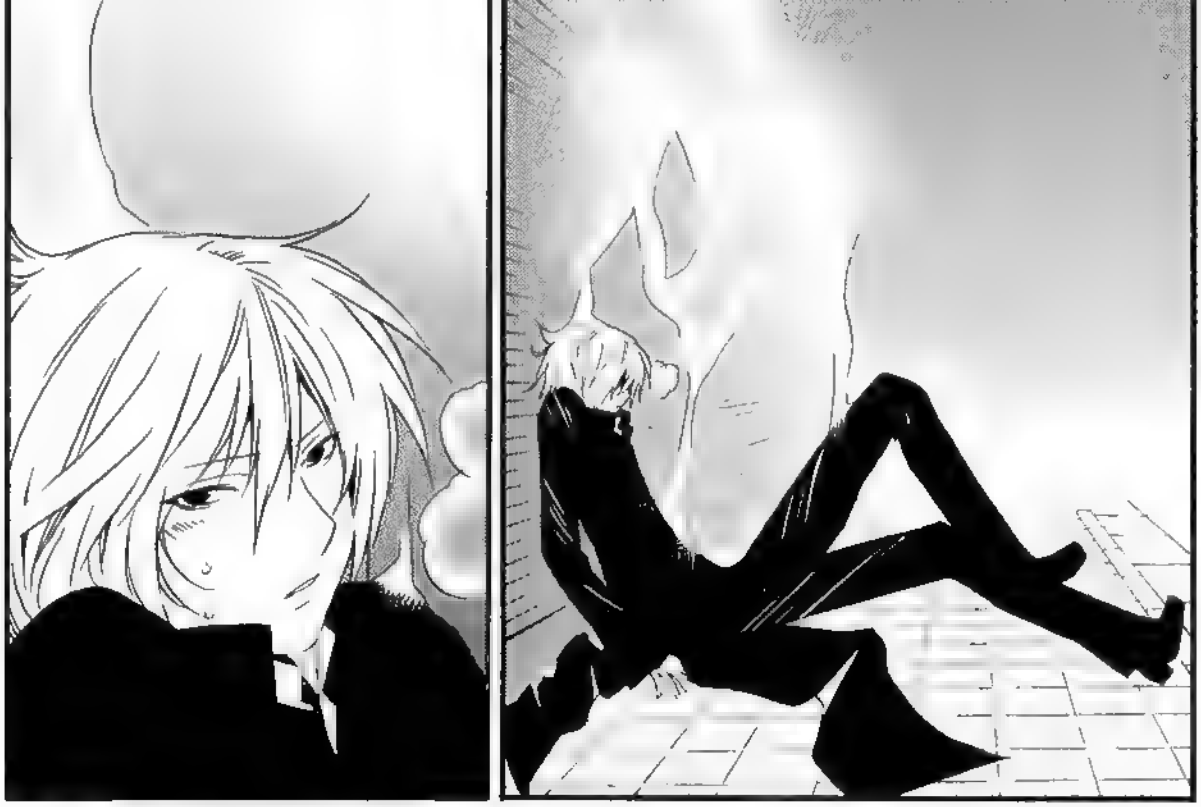
...SO THAT BIG OF AN ATTACK MAKES ME THIS UNSTABLE.
...JUST BY PUTTING OUT MY FULL POWER...
SHIT... DAMN THIS MESSED UP BODY OF MINE ...

STAGGER
ヨロ…

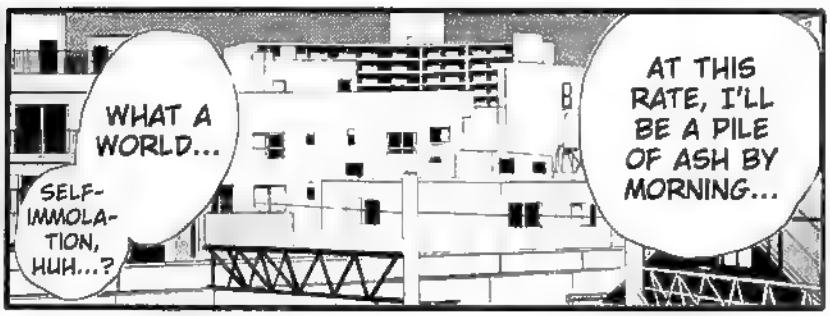
NO I'LL CHOICE. ASK TAKAMI-SAN TO PICK ME UP...

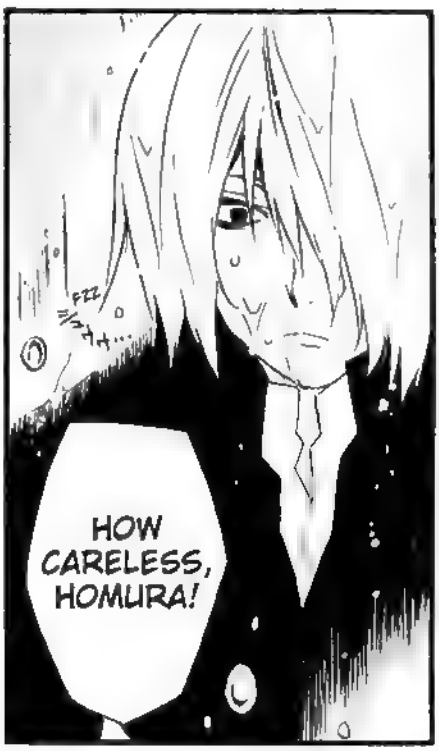
HAA.

CRUMBLE
ボロ



DRIP


WHAT A WORLD...
SELF-IMMOLATION, HUH...?
AT THIS RATE, I'LL BE A PILE OF ASH BY MORNING...


FZZ
HOW CARELESS, HOMURA!

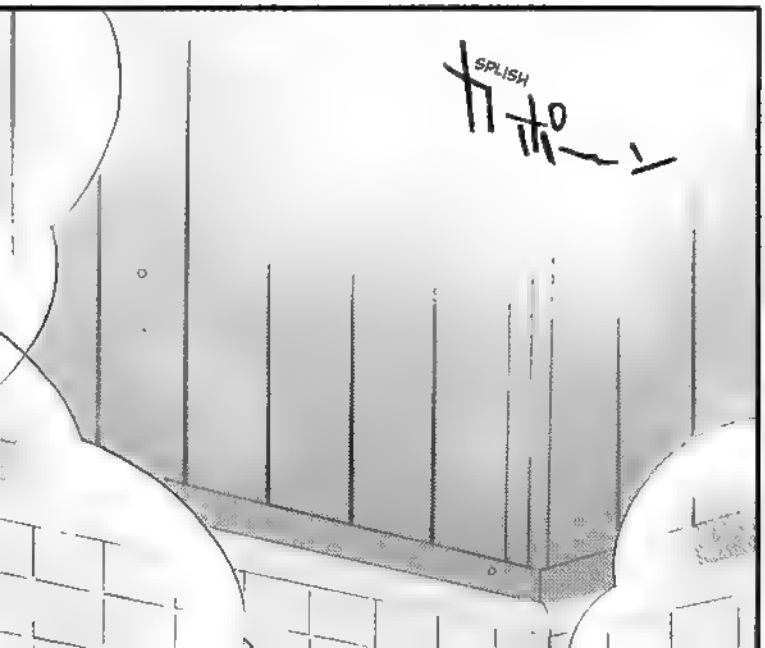
POUR

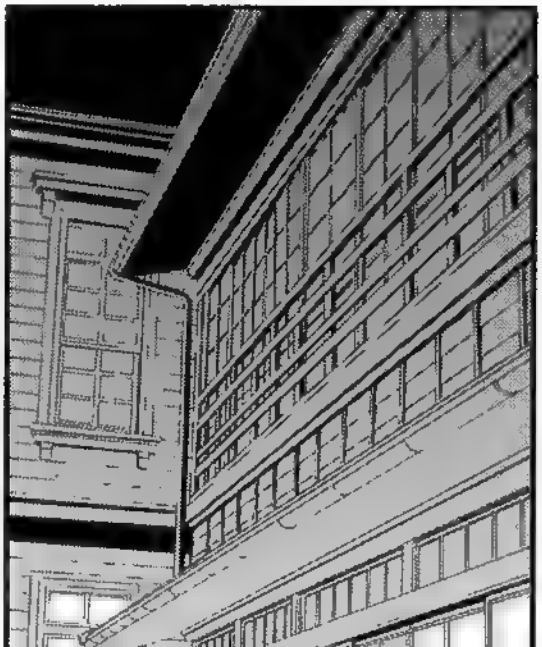
...
TSUKIUMI.
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF MY RIVAL!
STAND UP!

I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO DIE LIKE THAT!
HMPH.
W/ GLARE
NO. ...BUT...
FIND ONE YET?
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR ASHIKABI?
WELL THEN, STOP LOOKING, YOU!!
BUT YOUR PANTIES ARE SHOWING.
YOU'RE A COOL ONE, TSUKIUMI.

...WHEN I DO, THEY'LL COME TO REGRET IT.

...MY, MY.


SPLISH



WHATCHA DOING, MUSUBI-TAN?
JUST PRAYING TO THE COUNTLESS GODS...
...SO THAT KU-CHAN WILL START SMILING AGAIN.
EH-HEH-HEH. YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
SHE MIGHT BE A PIP-SQUEAK, BUT SHE'S STILL YOUR RIVAL IN LOVE.
RIVAL ...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SINK
SO PURE.
?
OR MAYBE JUST DUMB...

OH, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU, UZUME-SAN.
WHO IS YOUR ASHIKABI-SAMA...!?
EH HEH HEH.
THAT'S A SECRET.
A SECRET? REALLY?
RISE
AREN'T YOU LONELY?
BEING APART FROM THEM...
WELL, SURE.
I AM LONELY.

...THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF SEKIREI.
WELL, JUST LIKE WITH PEOPLE ...
BUT IN MY CASE, IT'S... A SPECIAL SITUATION.
OF COURSE I WANNA BE WITH MY ASHIKABI.

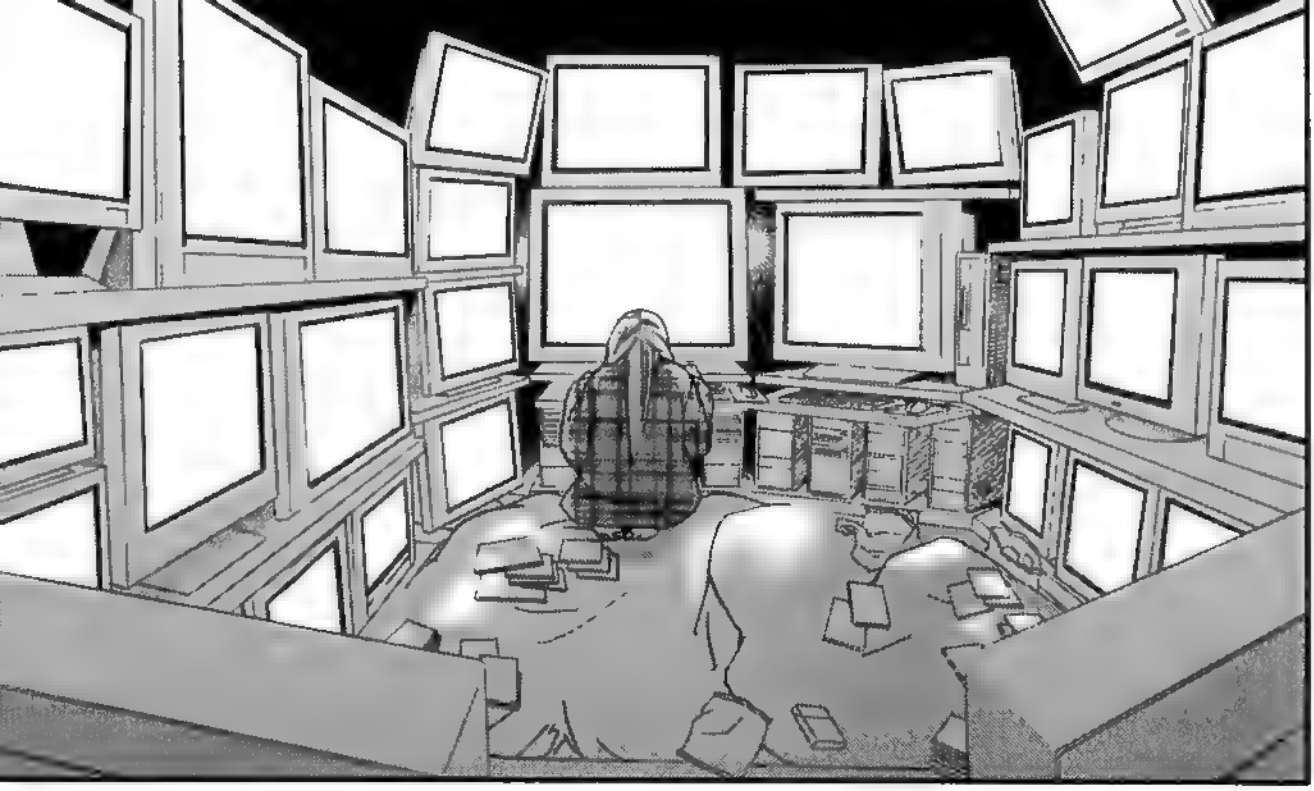
UZUME-SAN...

I'M JUST HAPPY KNOWING WE'RE BOTH ALIVE ON THIS EARTH.
FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THAT CONNECTION IS GOOD ENOUGH.

THERE'RE 108 DIFFERENT SEKIREI, AFTER ALL!
YUP.
I SEE... THERE ARE ALL SORTS.

Chapter 15:
The Colorful
Tale of
Izumo Inn

THINKING BACK TO SOMETHING UZUME-SAN SAID RIGHT AFTER I MOVED IN HERE...
BUT THAT WAS A SHOCKER...
TO THINK THERE'D BE ANOTHER SEKIREI BESIDES MUSUBI-CHAN IN THIS BOARDING-HOUSE...
MATTER OF FACT...
...I'M NOT EVEN THE ONLY ONE, Y'KNOW...
THERE'RE MORE...?
ACK!
...THAT'S ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT AFTER THE CHAOS THAT WAS ABOUT TO UNFOLD.
I SHOULD'VE PRESSED HER HARDER BACK THEN...
UMM!
NEVER MIND THAT.



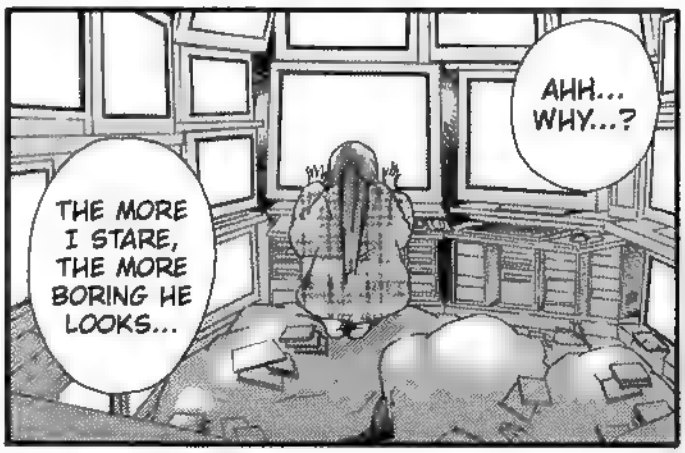
SFX: CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK

HE SHOULD'VE GOTTEN AN ARABIAN PRINCE! OR A RICH CORPORATE HEIR!
I WAS HOPING TO WATCH SOME FORBIDDEN LOVE UNFOLD HERE...
MAAAAN. AND HE'S ONE OF THE FEW MALE SEKIREI...AND SO CUTE TO BOOT...
no.107

SCREEN: NO. 107 SHIINA, ASHIKABI

SCREEN: ASHIKABI

蒼牙
...THE ONE MY SEKIREI CREST REACTS STRONGEST TO...THE ONE IT BURNS AND LONGS FOR ...
IN HERE...
THE MASSIVE, SHADOWY DATABASE ABOUT ASHIKABI CANDIDATES CREATED BY MBI...

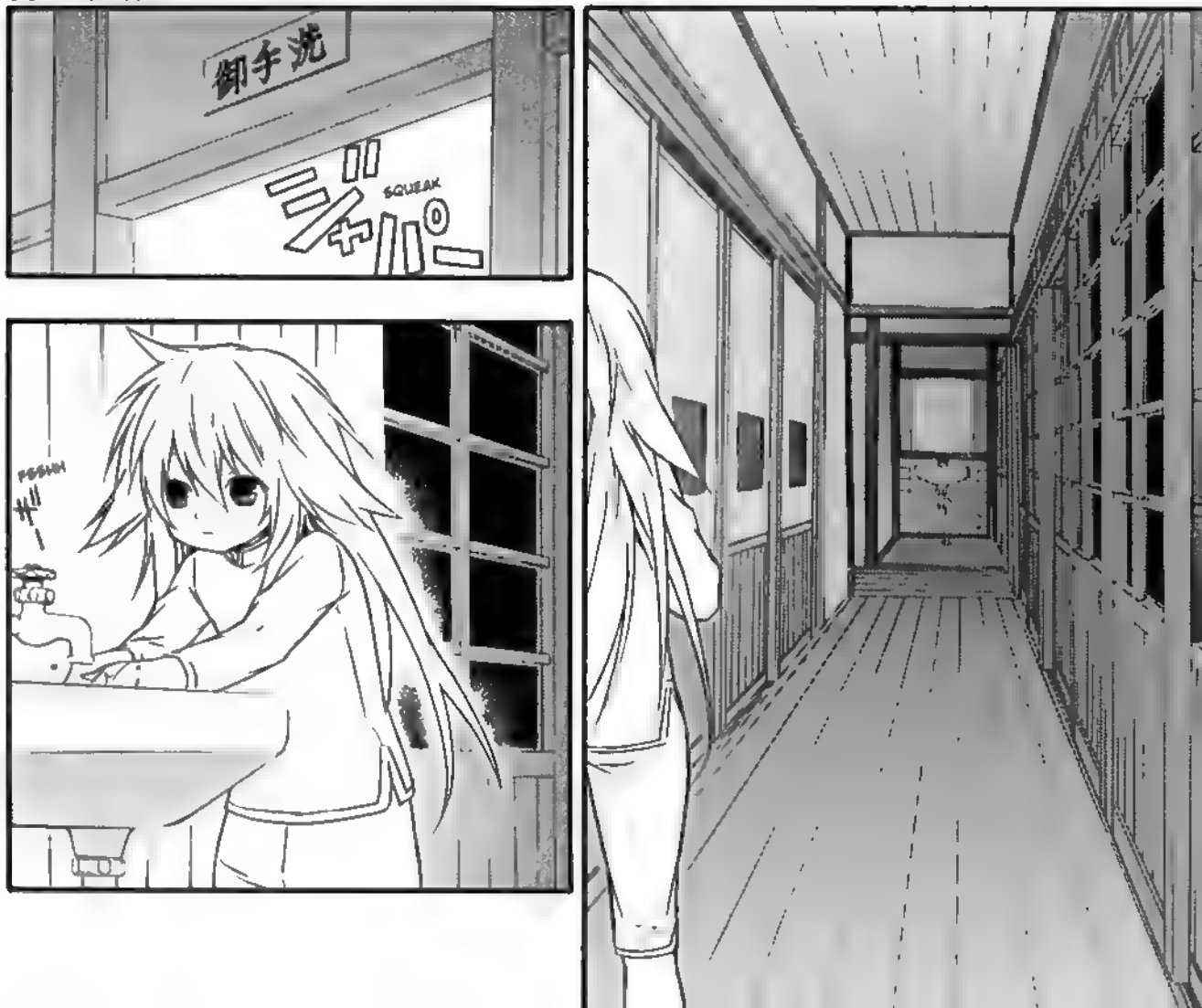


草野
BUT...
...HE'S ALREADY GOT WINGED TWO SEKIREI.
No.88
結
SCREEN: KUSANO
SCREEN: NO. 88 MUSUBI

...BUT THEN WHY DO I FIND MYSELF SO VERY ATTRACTED TO HIM?
FROM THE DATA ALONE, HE'S A DULL ROUNIN STUDENT LIKE ANY OTHER ...

SEKIREI AND ASHIKABI...
...HOLD SECRETS IN BOTH BODY AND SPIRIT.
ALL WE CAN DO IS UNRAVEL THE MYSTERIES OF THIS BODY OF MINE.....

SIGN: WASHROOM



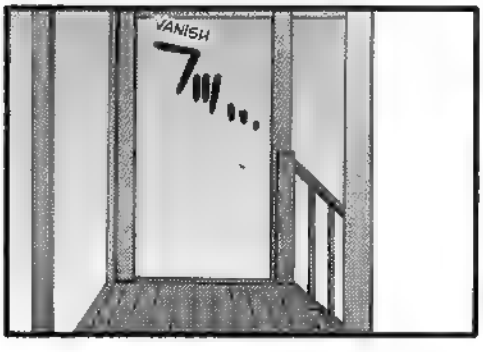
SMILE
ニコ。
TURN
きゅっ
EEEK...
DIVE
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
だだだだだ
ドドド

KU-CHAN...?
KU...
SHAKE SHAKE
TREMBLE TREMBLE
SQUEEZE
キュウ

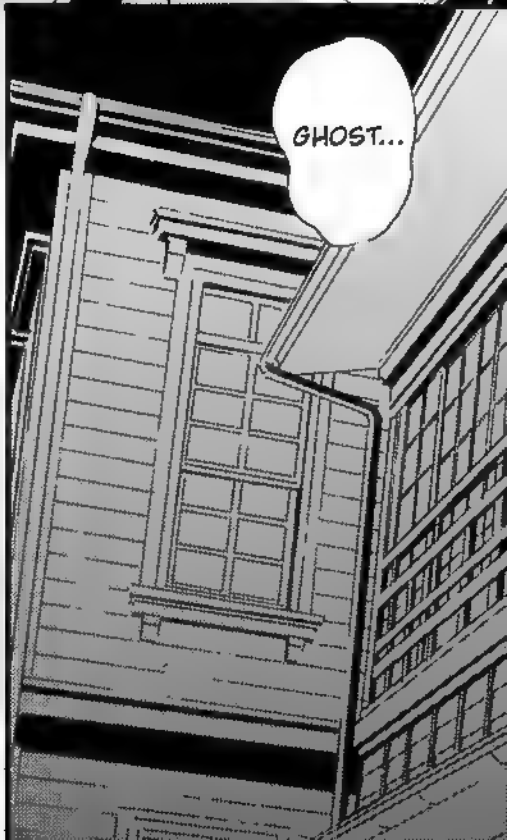
SQUIRM
ZZZ...
ZZZ...
SQUIRM
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
SQUIRM

GH—
GUH?

I JUST WANTED TO ASK A BIT ABOUT HIM.
SO I SMILED AT HER...


VANISH

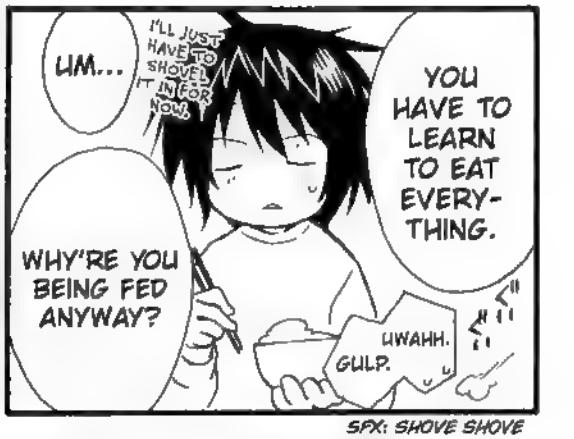
EH!? A GH—
GHOST !?
A GHOST ...?
THAT'S JUST INSULTING.


GHOST...

OH!

WE WERE WORRIED IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BURGLAR, SO WE CHECKED THE WHOLE INN AFTERWARD ...
BUT THERE WAS NO ONE THERE IN THE END.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU WEREN'T IN YOUR FUTON, KU-CHAN.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE THAT SAHASHI-SAN HAD WHISKED YOU AWAY... U-FU-FU...OR SOMETHING.
"U-FU-FU"? REALLY, LAND-LADY!?



SFX: SHOVE SHOVE

AH.
UM, I MEAN...
NO IDEA.
...UZUME-SAN.
AH! MUST BE HER.
LONG HAIR AND GLASSES ...

SMILE
I'M SURE KU-CHAN WAS JUST SEEING THINGS.

GROWL
GHOSTS HERE AT IZUMO INN? U-FU-FU-FU-FU.
I'M SURE WE HAVE NOTHING LIKE THAT HERE. ♡
AH... HA-HA. RIGHT.
MUST HAVE BEEN SEEING THINGS.

THE FIRST SPIRIT TO APPEAR HERE WOULD BE SOMEONE ELSE.
WHAT'S MORE, THIS PLACE...

WERE YOU EVEN PAYING ATTENTION?
... MUSUBI-TAN...
PFF-T.

UMM.
MUSUBI HAS A QUESTION.
AH...OF COURSE.
THE LANDLADY'S HUSBAND PASSED AWAY...

?
WHAT'S A "SPIRIT"?

WELL, LET'S SEE...

A SPIRIT IS...
IT'S WHEN SOMEONE WHO'S DIED HAS LINGERING FEELINGS, SO THEY SHOW UP AGAIN...
THEY COULD CURSE YOU, HAUNT YOU, OR WATCH OVER YOU.....
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY ALL WORK IN THE SAME WAY.
YEAH, THIS IS HARDER TO EXPLAIN THAN I THOUGHT.

LIKE MAYBE THEY'RE HIDING SOME-THING?
IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING FISHY'S GOING ON HERE.

IT'S WHEN SOMEONE SHOWS UP WHO YOU DON'T EXPECT, AND IT SURPRISES YOU.
KIND OF LIKE THAT.
AH, YES. I UNDER-STAND.

BE THAT AS IT MAY...
...THE OTHERS WERE ACTING STRANGE ABOUT IT.

ARE YOU SCARED OF SPIRITS, MINATO-SAN?
MOST NORMAL PEOPLE ARE.

SFX: CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK

ケーキ セール 実施中
SIGN: CAKE ON SALE
BAG: INASA SUPERMARKET
NOTE: SHOPPING LIST
GLINT
キラリ
おかいもの メモ
LET'S SEE. SOY SAUCE AND MISO...
NOW I JUST NEED RADISH AND CABBAGE FROM THE GREEN GROCER!

PEAK
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
?

BOOM
WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING ?
BOOM
BOOM
WHAT IS THIS?
?
?
BOOM
BOOM

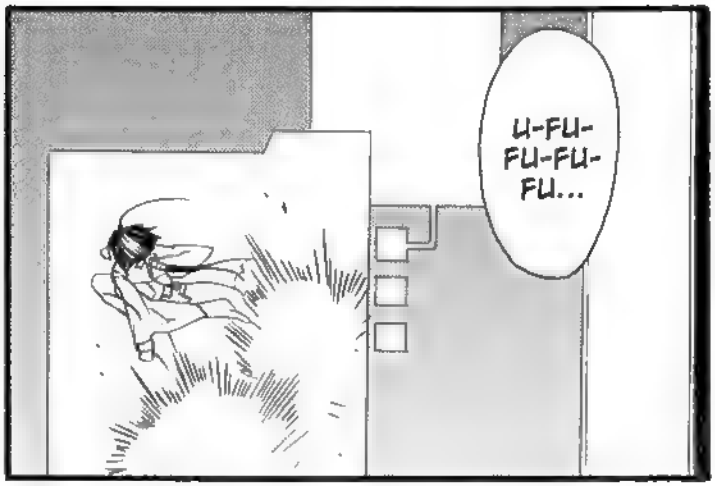
SAHASHI-SAN...

...FEEL FREE TO TAKE YOUR BATH BEFORE DINNER.

AH, SURE.
THANK YOU.

YEESH
CRACK
YOU CAN TAKE A BATH WITH ME LATER, KU-CHAN.

SHE ONLY NEEDED TO GO TO THE MARKET DISTRICT...
COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE IS RATHER LATE GETTING BACK.
WHAT TIME WAS THAT?
MUSUBI-CHAN WENT OUT SHOPPING, RIGHT?
HMM...

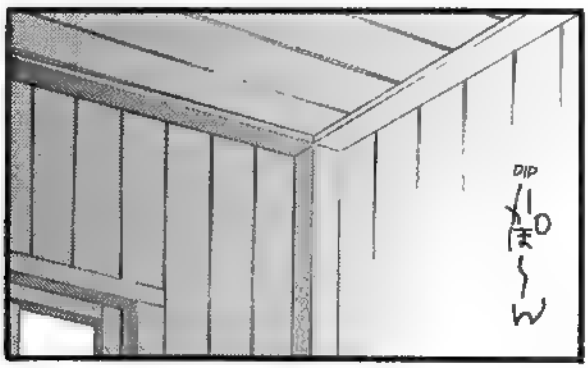


*SBL: SATELLITE-BASED LASER

TRIPPING UP NUMBER 88 SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH THIS.
INCIDENTALLY, I'VE ACCESSED THIS BY HACKING DIRECTLY INTO A CERTAIN SUPERPOWER'S GRID.
SUCH PRECISE ATTACK POWER.
I EXPECTED NO LESS FROM MBI'S SBL*-EQUIPPED MILITARY SATELLITE.

KU-FU-FU! ♡
NOW THE REAL SHOW BEGINS.

I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT.
LIKE, WHAT EXACTLY WAS IT THAT KU-CHAN SAW IN THE END...?


DIP

AHHHH.

LIKE ON THE SECOND FLOOR, THAT...
RUB
RUB
SLIDE

RISE
I DIDN'T MENTION IT EARLIER, BUT...
...I FEEL LIKE IZUMO INN IS JUST FULL OF MYSTERIES.

SFX: BADUM BADUM BADUM BADUM

W—
WAIT... HOLD ON...!!
WHO ARE YOU!?
U-FU.

Chapter 16: Angel in a White Coat

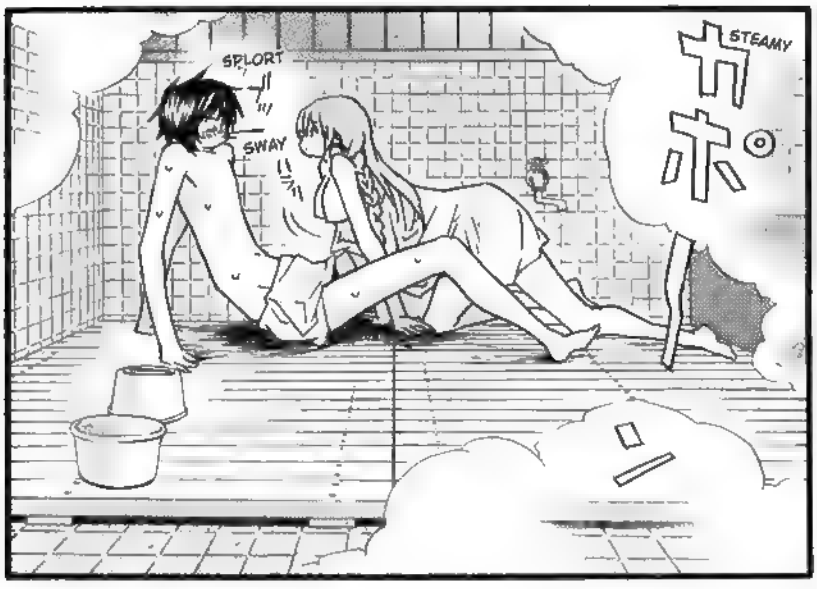
Chapter 16: Angel in a White Coat

I'M BAAACK.
WELCOME BACK.
YOU'RE QUITE LATE .....
OH, MUSUBI-SAN?

TATTERED
ボロロッ
MY, MY. YOU'RE ALL TORN UP. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
I'M NOT QUITE SURE MYSELF.
GLINT
I WAS DOING THE SHOPPING WHEN SOMETHING FELL FROM THE SKY.
BOOM
THAT LIGHT KEPT CHASING ME.
OH MY...!
HOW TERRIBLE.
ARE YOU HURT?
NO!
AND I DID ALL THE SHOPPING ...
ACK.

...
MUSUBI-SAN...
...GOING OUT LOOKING LIKE THAT WOULD BE HIGHLY IMMODEST.
GRAB
IN ALL THE CONFUSION, I FORGOT ABOUT THE RADISH AND CABBAGE.
I'LL JUST RUN OUT AGAIN...

JUST TAKE A BATH AND GET CHANGED.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE SHOPPING.


SPLORT
SWAY
STEAMY
ポ
ニ

BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
MINATO SAHASHI ...
BADUM
UH, UMM.
WH-WHO MIGHT Y-Y-Y-YOU BE?
BADUM
!

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS...?
YOUR MARKS THROUGHOUT SCHOOL BACK IN WAKAYAMA WERE TOP-CLASS, BUT YOU'RE FLOUNDERING HERE. YOUR RECENT TEST SCORES DON'T REFLECT YOUR TRUE ABILITIES, SO NOW YOU'RE A SECOND-YEAR ROUNIN STUDENT.
HOW ...?
YOU'RE NINETEEN. YOU'RE FROM WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE. YOU LIVED WITH YOUR MOTHER, YOUNGER SISTER, AND GRANDMOTHER, JUST THE FOUR OF YOU. THE DATA ON YOUR FATHER IS UNCLEAR.
YOU'RE FAIRLY RESERVED. YOU WERE RAISED IN A STEREOTYPICALLY FEMALE-DRIVEN HOUSEHOLD, SO YOU CAN'T STAND UP TO YOUR MOTHER OR SISTER.

...YOU'RE A LOSER...
IN A SINGLE WORD...
THRUST
...ASHIKABI TO ME, SEKIREI NUMBER 2, "MATSU."
BUT YOU...
...ARE, IN FACT...

SEKIREI ...?
SE—
THIS BURNING IN MY BODY...
PLEASE CALM IT WITH YOUR DNA... ♡

SLIDE
ガラッ
HMM?
IS SOMEONE IN THE BATH?
UHH, UMM, THIS IS...
WHOA.
MU-MUSUBI-CHAN!!
ITCH.
YAYY. I CAN WASH HIS BACK.
OHH. ♡ MINATO-SAN.
HUH?
WHO ARE YOU?
KACHIK
MY ENEMY HAS APPEARED!!
YOU RETURNED APPROXIMATELY THREE HUNDRED SECONDS EARLIER THAN EXPECTED.
WELL DONE, INDEED...!!

KACHAK
WH—
WHERE'D YOU PULL THAT FROM?
BUT I'VE ACCOUNTED FOR THIS TOO.
!
BLAM

PUFF
MUSUBI-CHAN!!
MRGRGH.
SPIN
EEP.
I PRE-PARED IT FOR THIS VERY EVENTU-ALITY.
BREAKING IT IS IM-POSSIBLE ...!
IT'S A NET MADE WITH MBI'S SPECIAL SYNTHETIC FIBERS.
MUSU-MUSUBI-CHAAAAN.
AND WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THOSE HANDS!?
NOOOOO.
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
わきわきわき
NOW, LET US BE UNITED IN LOVE... ♡
THE INTERLOPER IS SEALED AWAY.
U-FU-FU.
NO NEED TO BE SCARED. I'LL MAKE THIS A GENTLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOU...
POINT

...I HEARD AN UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF COMMOTION COMING FROM THE BATH.
...I THOUGHT ...
...EH...?
UNTOWARD FRATERNIZING WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX IS FORBIDDEN IN IZUMO INN'S BATH, MATSU-SAN.
GROWL
AH, YOU'RE MAD.
MIYA-TAN IS REALLY, REALLY MAD.

MY NAME IS MATSU.
SORRY.
LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF PROPERLY.

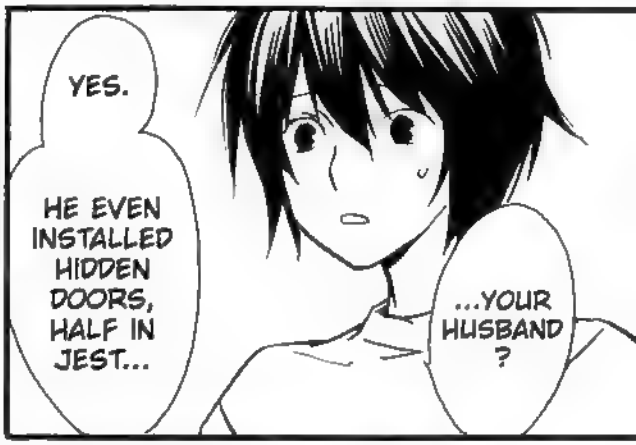
YES.
201? THAT WOULD BE THE ROOM AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY... RIGHT?

HERE
I'VE SEEN THE WINDOW FROM OUTSIDE, BUT...

I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I CAUSED...
SHE IS ALSO A RESIDENT OF IZUMO INN.
SHE LIVES IN ROOM 201.

A H-HIDDEN DOOR-WAY!?
TEE-HEE!
YEAH, THAT WAS ME.
I LIVE IN HIDING HERE.
THAT MEANS THE SPIRIT THAT KU-CHAN SAW WAS...
WHERE'S THE ENTRANCE ...?
AH, IT'S ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
SHALL WE TAKE A TRIP TO MATSU-SAN'S ROOM?
CREAK
SPIN
しゅん
!!
IN HIDING ...?
WELL... WHEN I LEFT MBI, I...
A BUNCH OF THINGS HAPPENED.
EVEN TELLING YOU WHAT HAPPENED WOULD PUT YOU ON THEIR HIT LIST.
H-HIT LIST?
SO ASAMA-SAN HAS BEEN CONCEALING ME.
YOU'VE BEEN CON-SEELING HER?
INDEED, I HAVE BEEN.

AS I MENTIONED ONCE BEFORE...
...MY HUSBAND NEVER TURNED ANYONE AWAY.


...YOUR HUSBAND?
YES.
HE EVEN INSTALLED HIDDEN DOORS, HALF IN JEST...

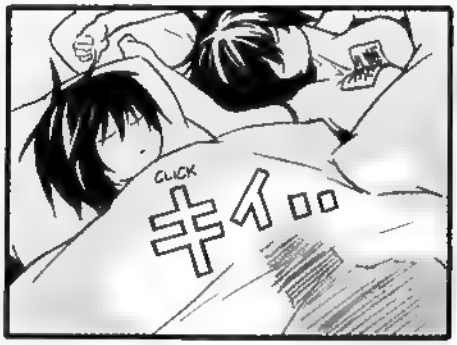
I'M SORRY THAT I COULDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT HER.
BUT AFTER THIS DISTURBANCE, I'VE HALF A MIND TO...
KICK HER OUT. OR PERHAPS KICK HER OUT. MAYBE KICK HER OUT?
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY! I WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MIYA-SAN!!

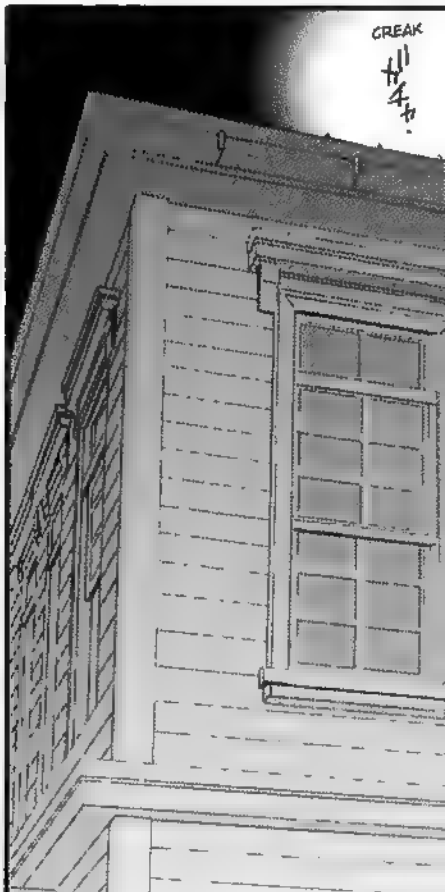
MY HUSBAND ...
HE WAS A RESEARCHER AT MBI.
THAT'S HOW HE GOT TO KNOW MATSU-SAN.

SEE YOU.
YES.
NEVER AGAIN.
DO YOU MEAN IT?
BOW
ペコ
I APOLOGIZE TO YOU THREE AS WELL.
CLOSE
パシーン
THE SPIRIT...
BUT ISN'T THIS EXCITING, MINATO-SAN!?
...HUH?
YES!
A-ARE YOU OKAY, MUSUBI-CHAN?

SHE'S YOUR "THIRD."
RIGHT?

...WHO'S THERE?


CLICK
キィ…


CREAK
ガチャ

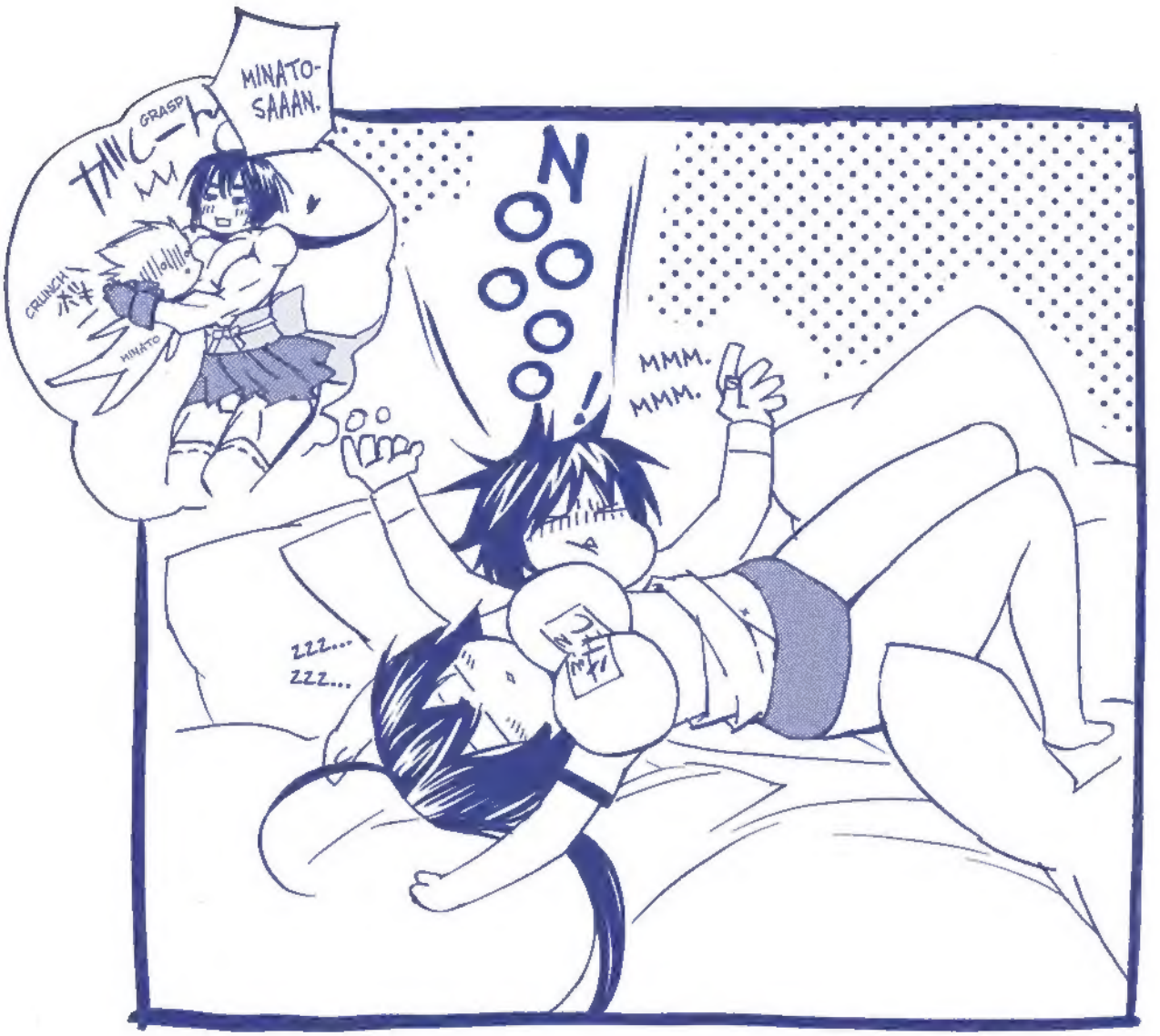
KU-CHA—?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I, OF ALL PEOPLE, FORGOT...
...THE ALL-IMPORTANT RITUAL...
UWAHHH.
NOT AGAIN.

Sekirei 2-End

I HOPE YOU ENJOY VOLUME 3 AS WELL!

TOGETHER FOREVER.
GIANT BOOBS♥
NO! NOOOOO!
WHO THE HECK!?
MINATO
TOGETHER FOREVER.
PANTY SHOT♥


MINATO-SAAAN.
GRASP
GRUNCH
MINATO
NOOOO!
MMM. MMM.
ZZZ...
ZZZ...

Translation Notes

Page 17
Izanami is the female creation deity in Japanese mythology, and she was burned to death while birthing the fire god, Kagutsuchi.

Page 43
Paper face masks are commonly used in Japan during times of illness. It's typically the sick person who wears the mask to prevent others from catching anything. How very socially responsible!

Page 70
Kamaitachi, or "sickle weasel," is a Japanese mythical creature. It rides in on the wind and cuts people with invisible blades, inflicting wounds but no pain.

Page 122
Pickled foods, or "tsukemono," are popular in Japan, and their preparation requires both a vessel and a heavy weight (often a stone) to create adequate pressure. It seems Miya has found another use for her pickling stone.

Page 130
Yearly death anniversaries ("meinichi") of family members and loved ones are widely observed in Japan and usually involve a grave visit. Similarly, the monthly death day ("tsuki meinichi") is observed during the other eleven months of the year on the same day each month.

Page 134
The Japanese wagtail is a common species of bird that prefers freshwater environments. The Japanese name for it, "sekirei," also happens to be the title of the series.

SEKIREI ❷

Sakurako Gokurakuin

Translation: Caleb D. Cook

Lettering: Phil Christie

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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